Gambling Apocalypse Kaiji

6

Nobuyuki Fukumoto

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Gambling Apocalypse Kaiji

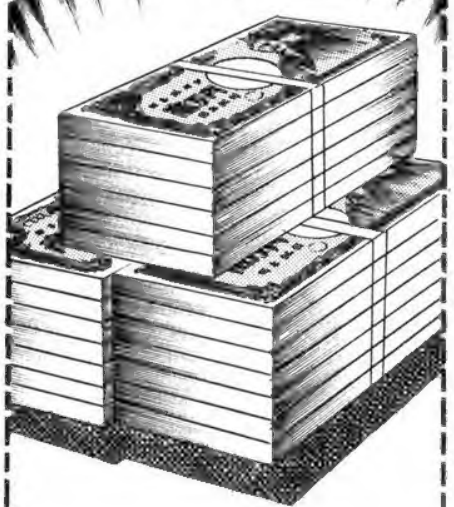
Chapter 59: Lockdown

Don't expect some childish notion of camaraderie from me.

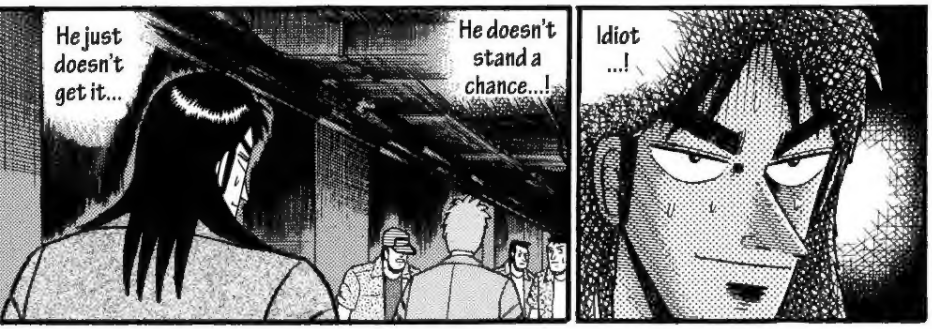
...you're all enemies!

As long as that's the case...

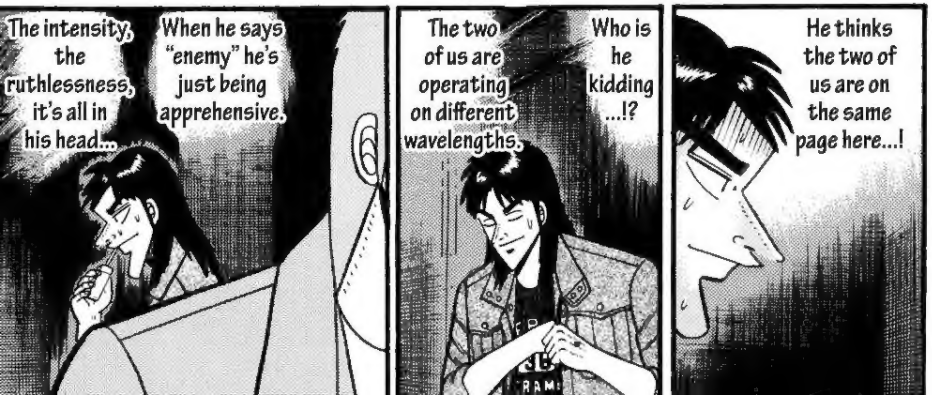
Chances are only one of us here will get their hands on the 20 mil. yen.



ざわ…
ざわ…
ざわ…
Hehehe…
……


He just doesn't get it...
He doesn't stand a chance...!
Idiot ...!

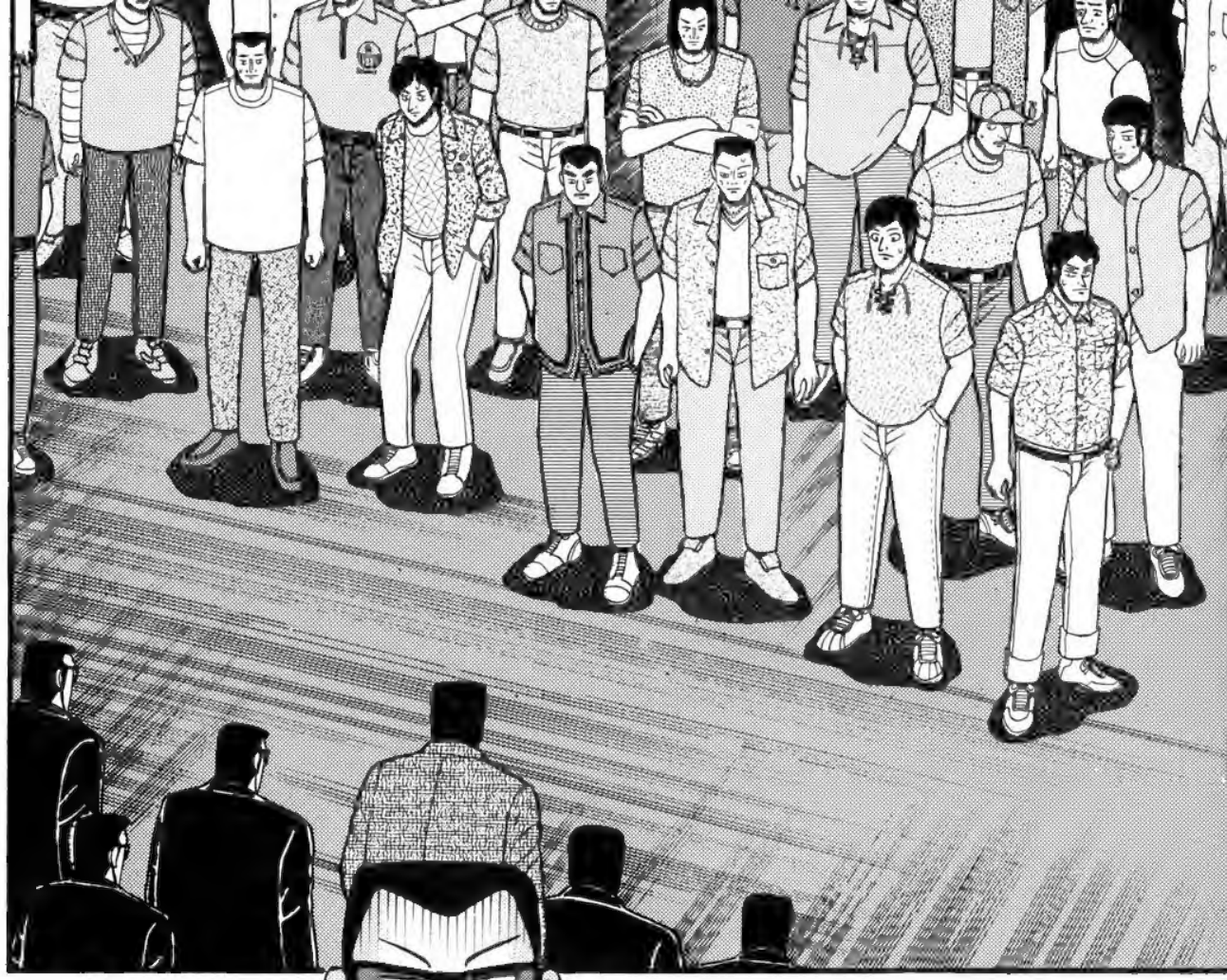
...eh, Kaiji-san?
May the best man win...
...that's just the way it is.
I guess ...


The intensity, the ruthlessness, it's all in his head...
When he says "enemy" he's just being apprehensive.
The two of us are operating on different wavelengths.
Who is he kidding ...!?
He thinks the two of us are on the same page here...!

Hehehe…
……
……
Later ...
Hmph ...

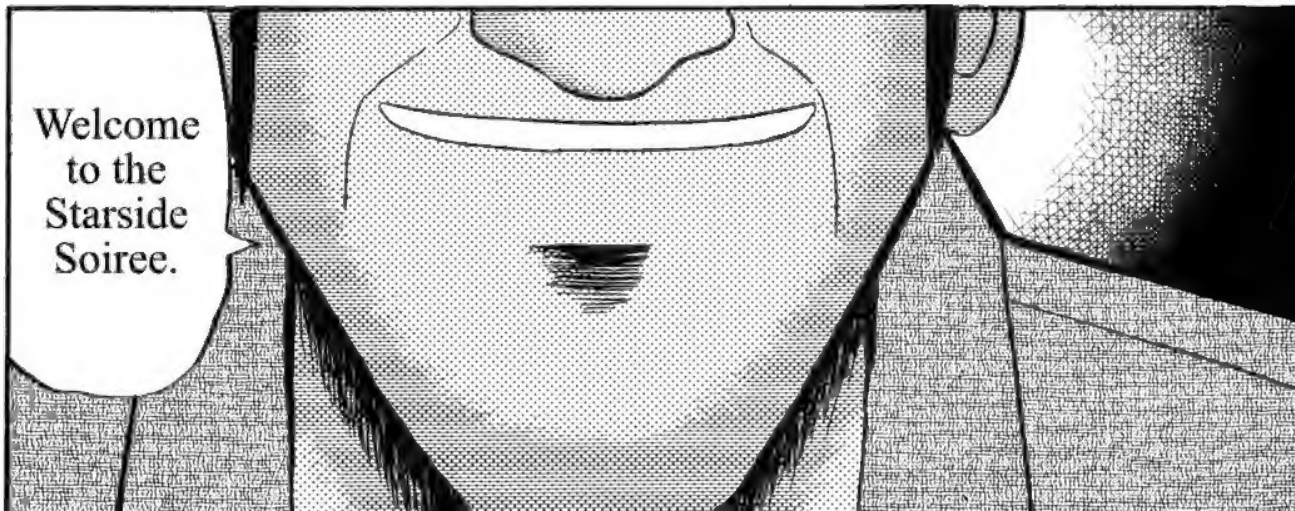
I'm as hard as nails ...!
I'll show you hard...
You might think you're hard, Sahara, but you've got another thing coming...!
I've already been burnt once by so-called friends.
But not for me...!
Guys who managed to survive hell once but were saddled with a new debt onboard that ship...
...are the ones like me.
...and forced to come here to attempt to gamble it off.
Oo
The guys I need to keep an eye on...
You won't pose a problem.
...you're out of your league.
You keep telling yourself you're tough. The truth is...
Guys like you are easy marks...
Five... maybe six guys...
I've spotted a few familiar faces from that ship...
Players from the cruise, the Espoir...!
Espoir
...now that they've been through hell!
They're sure to be formidable ...
I can't turn my back on them...!

.....
GRIN GRIN GRIN
Well ...
There's always exceptions, I guess...!
CLAP
Gather round...!
.....
Gather Gather round round ... ...!
CLAP CLAP CLAP
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE SHUFFLE

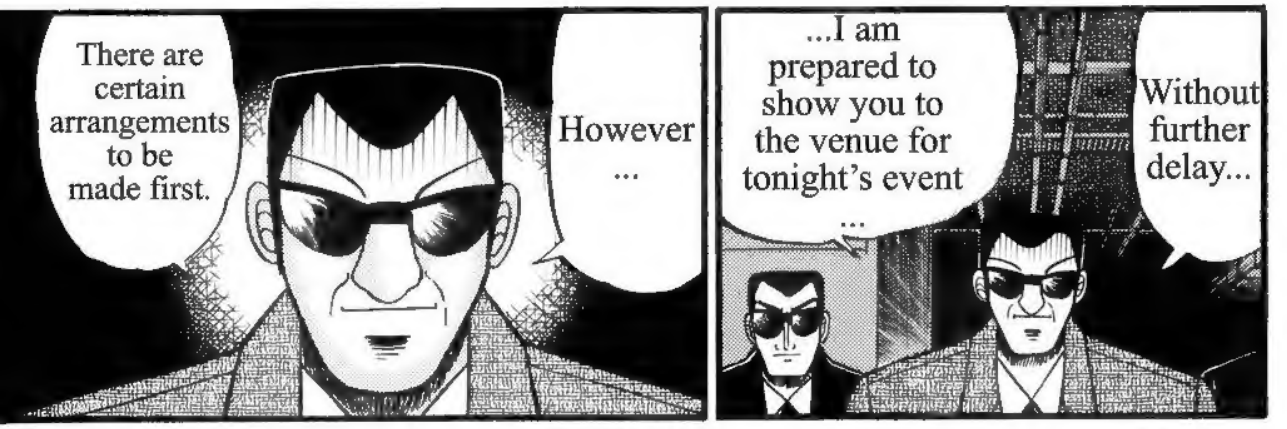


Good evening, gentlemen ...

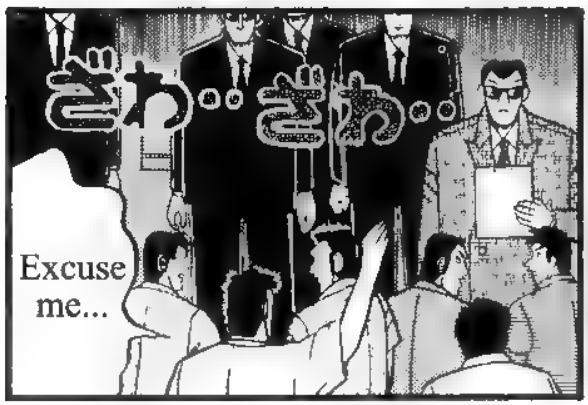
Hehehe...


Welcome to the Starside Soiree.

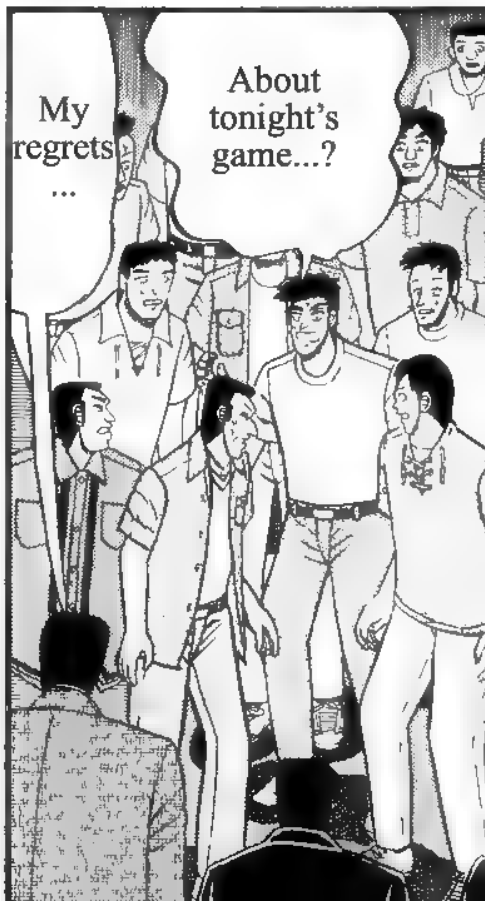
...are now in attendance.
...that all 60 guests invited to tonight's party...
The time is now 9:25 PM...
We have confirmed ...


There are certain arrangements to be made first.
However ...
...I am prepared to show you to the venue for tonight's event ...
Without further delay...

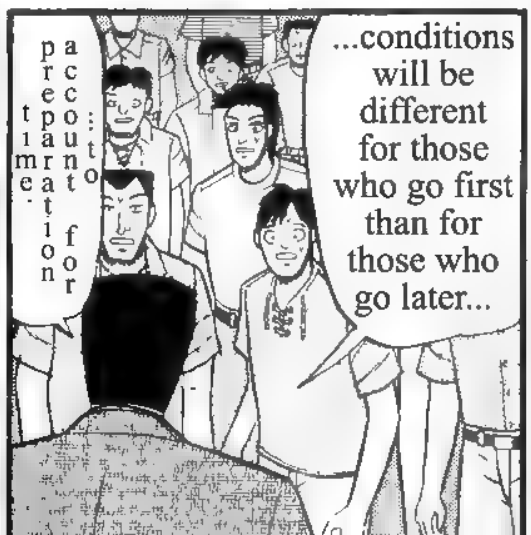
Now then...
In other words, 12 at a time.
...please raise your hands!
...the first 12. Those of you who would like to be in the first squad...
The 60 of you will be taken in five groups...
We will be unable to usher you all in at once.
Huh ...?


Excuse me...

As for the matter at hand...
...but I am unable to answer your question.


My regrets...
About tonight's game...?

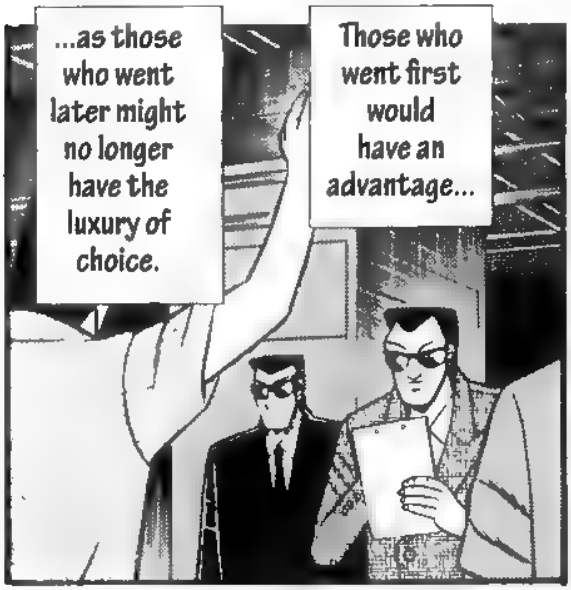
Understood...?

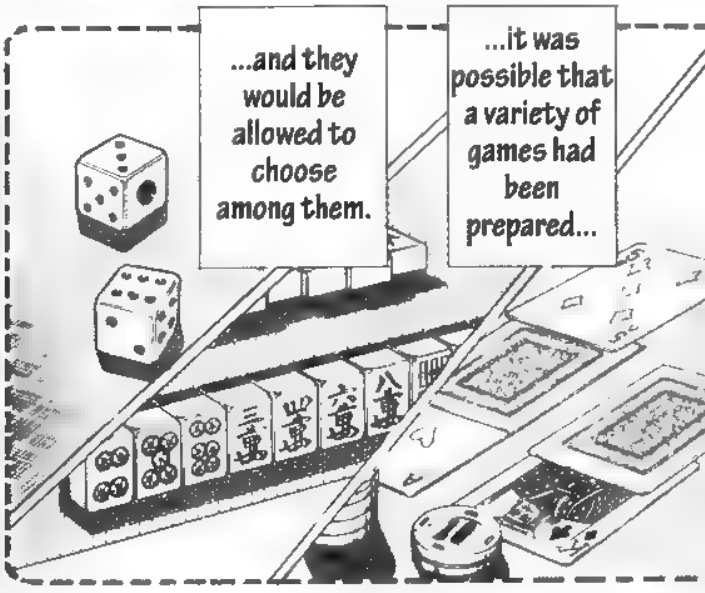

...conditions will be different for those who go first than for those who go later...
...to account for preparation time.

Now then, let's see hands...!
SMIRK
Ahh ...
.....
...and be among the first 12 to participate, please show your hands...!
Those of you who would like to join the first squad...
ざわ・ざわ・
ざわ・・・
...to take stock... to make tactics...
... no one raised their hands at first. Time was needed...
However...
ざわ・
As expected ...
.....

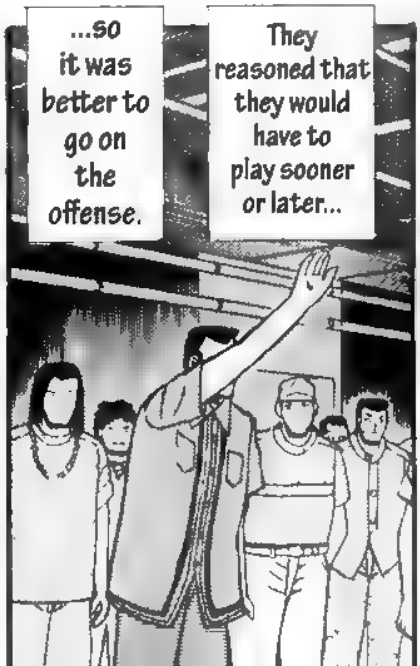
After all, if the 60 players were to be sent in...
...began raising their hands in order to join the first group.
...in five separate groups...

...one person, then another ...
...after a moment ...


...as those who went later might no longer have the luxury of choice.
Those who went first would have an advantage...


...and they would be allowed to choose among them.
...it was possible that a variety of games had been prepared...

However...
Seven... eight... nine people raised their hands.


...so it was better to go on the offense.
They reasoned that they would have to play sooner or later...

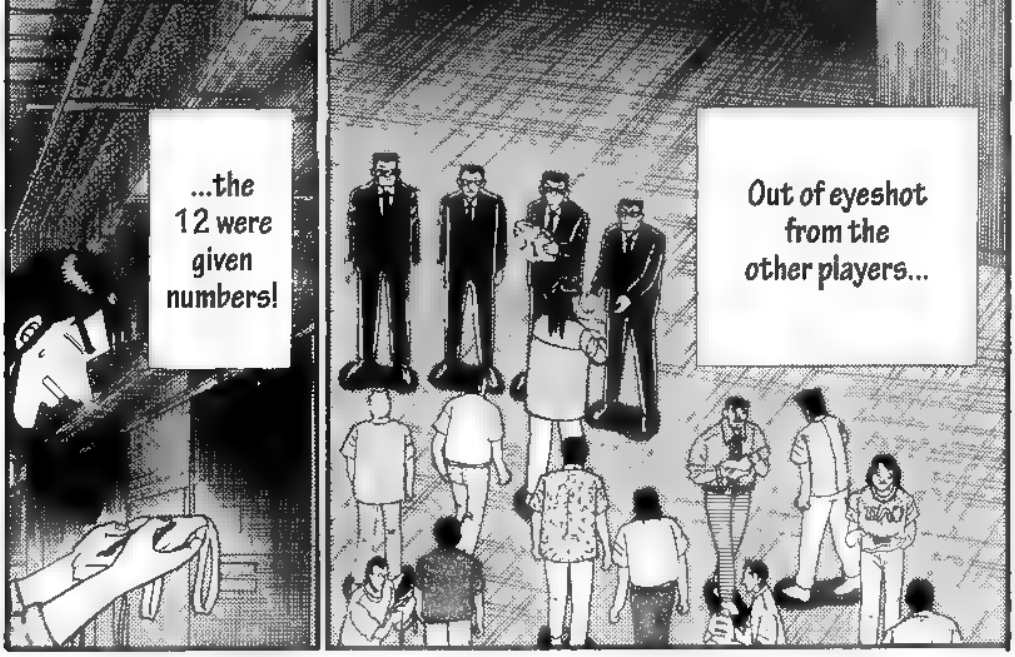
...and stepped up to the plate.
With that in mind, a few gathered their courage...

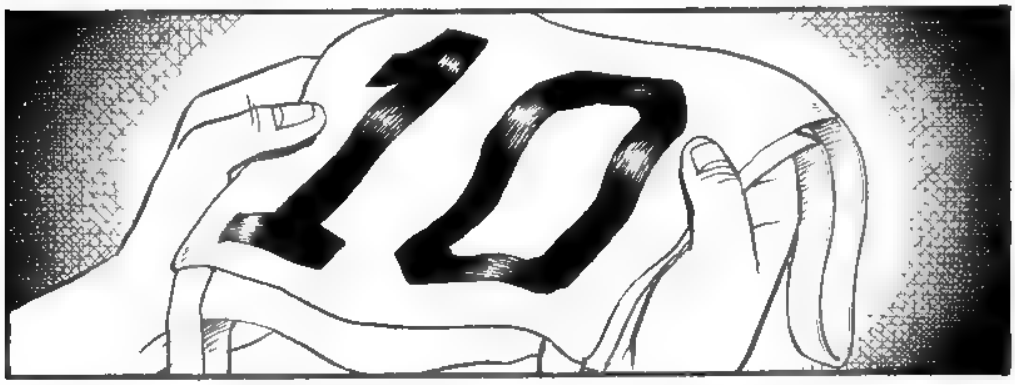
Until suddenly ...
...but those from the Espoir were more weary.
It was understandable...
...of those who raised their hands, none had been on the Espoir.

...Kaiji raises his hand!
Kaiji. Kaiji Ito...
Your name ...?
ZIP
Kaiji chose to join the first 12 participants.
SWSSH

ZIP
...were Ishida and Sahara, making a total of 12.
The next to raise their hands after Kaiji...
...odds would be in his favor.
Kaiji reasoned that as long no one from the Espoir joined the first squad...

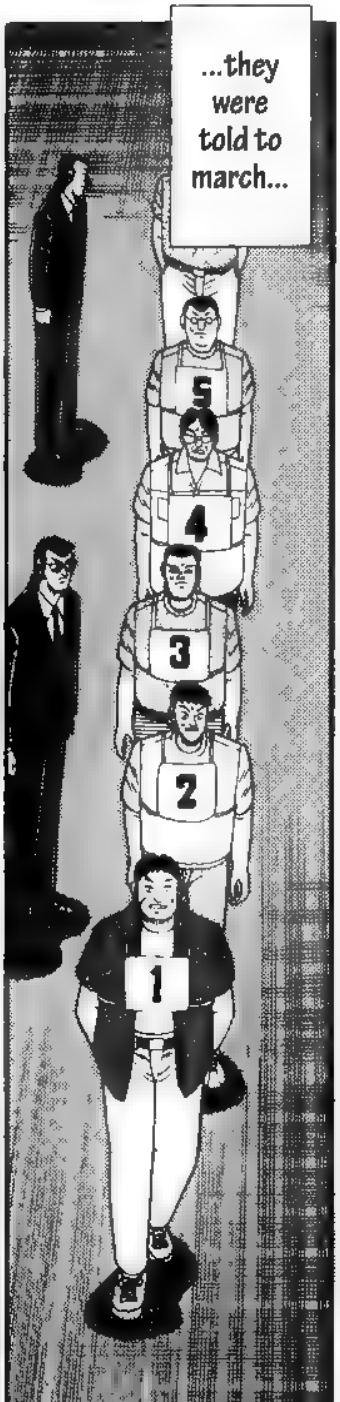
The first 12 players (team one) had been decided!!





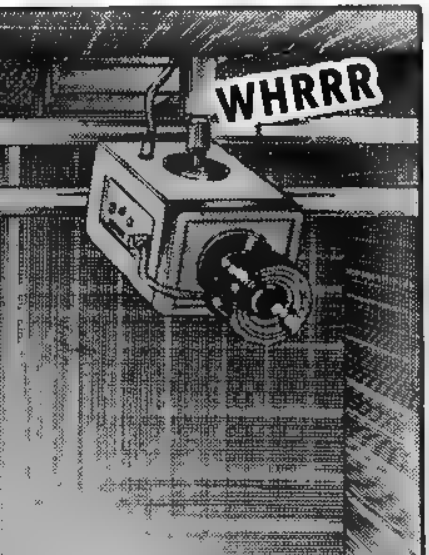
PAT
PAT
PAT

Hold on a sec...!
...in strict single-file, according to their numbers.
12
11
10


...they were told to march...
5
4
3
2
1

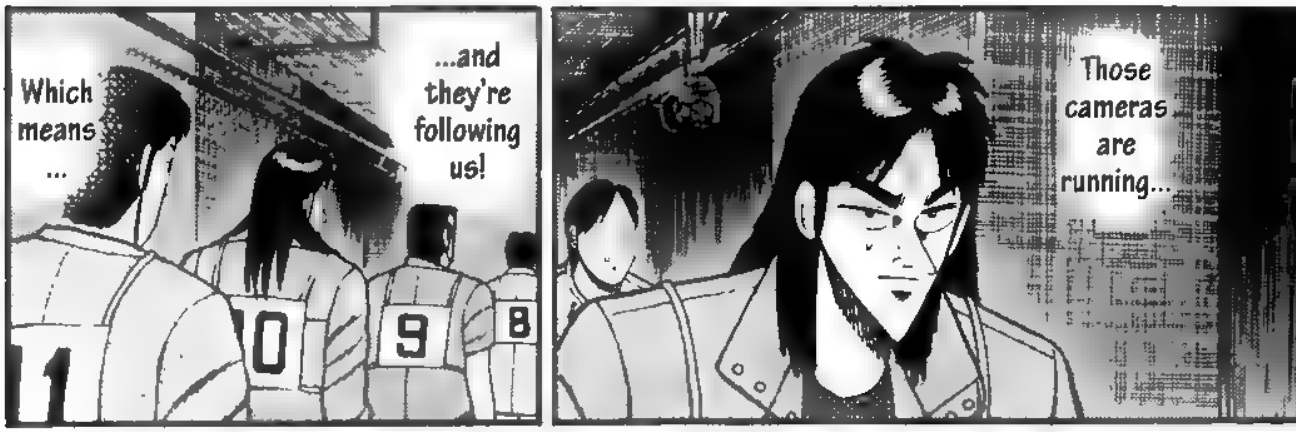
What in the world is going on...?
11
10
9

They're treating us like we're prisoners...!


WHRRR

...there'd be no reason to have us march in line like this...
If they were just leading us to the next location...
And on top of that...
12
11
10
9

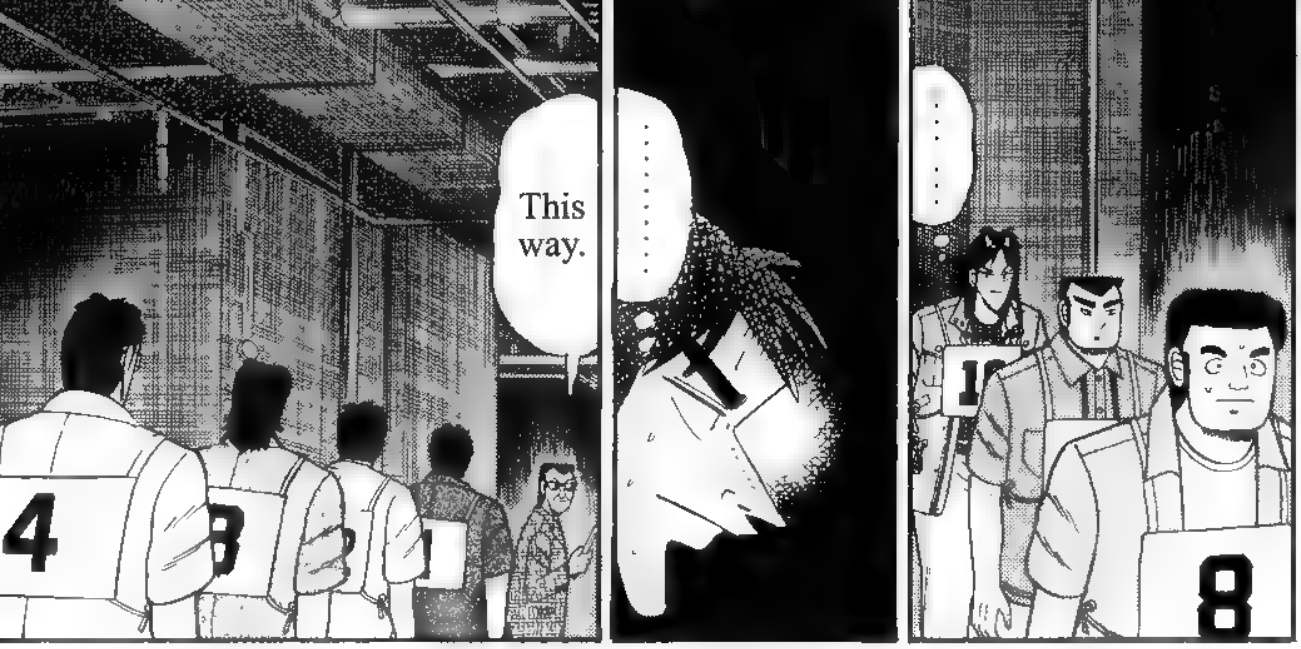
I...I don't think they're just for show.
...there's camera's in place.
...but all along the way...
I don't know who else has noticed...
.....
10
9


Which means ...
...and they're following us!
1
0
9
8
Those cameras are running...

.....
.....
...is watching this lineup.
...that somebody, somewhere ...
12
11
10
9
8

...for watching us march like this...what possible reason...?
What reason could they have...
Why...?
What's the purpose ...?
Man ...!
ぎわ…
Something doesn't sit right...
I've got a bad feeling about this...
It just doesn't sit right...

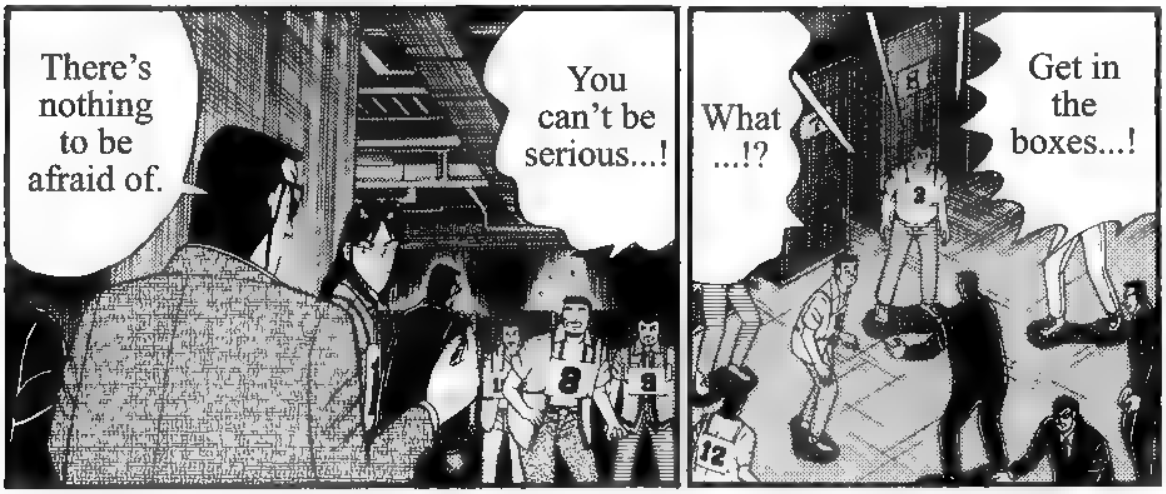
What could it mean...?
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ

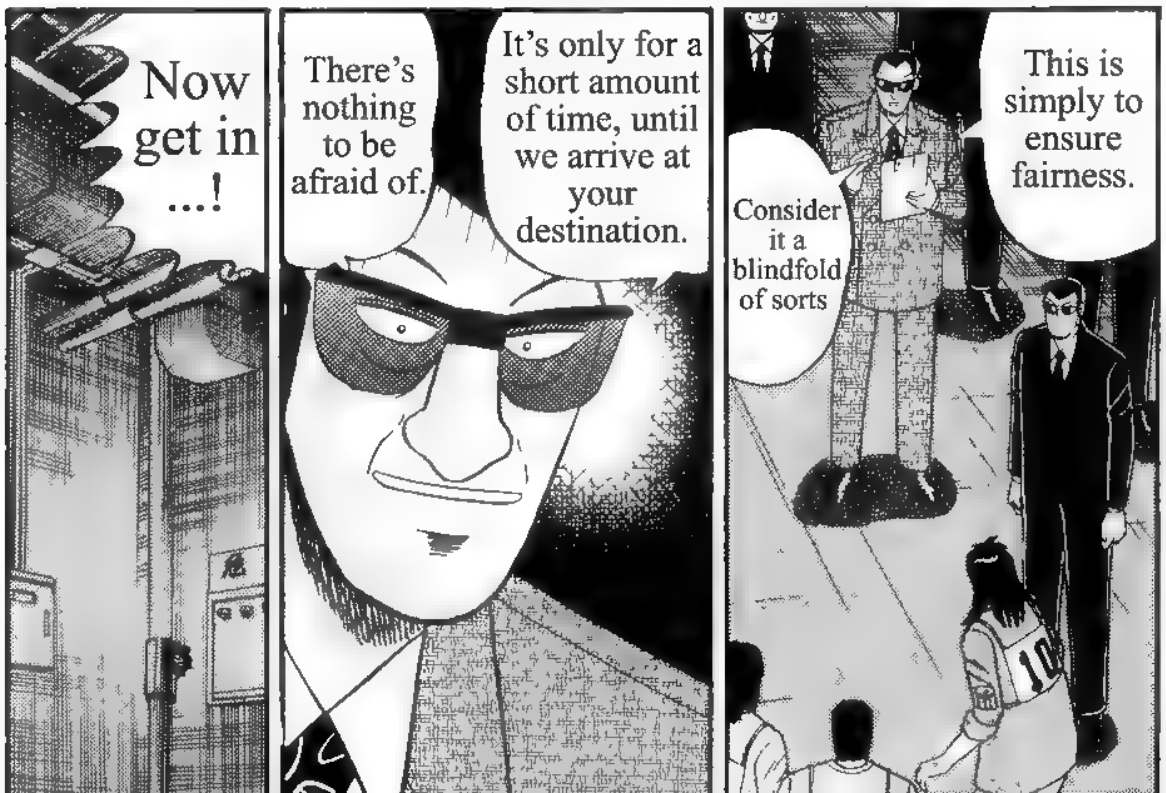


They weren't rooms so much as...

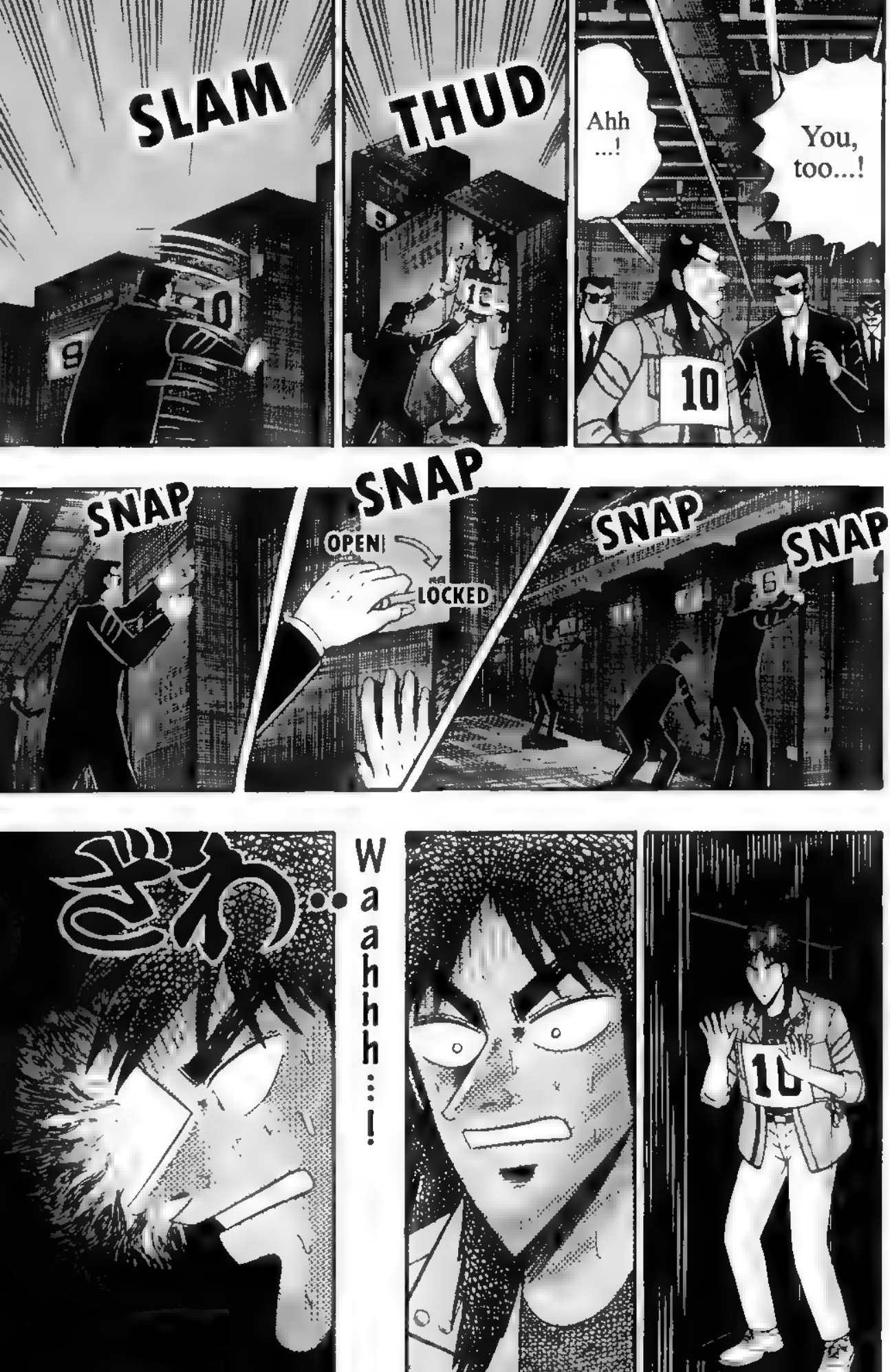
End of Chapter 59

Chapter 60: Despair




Now get in ...!
There's nothing to be afraid of.
It's only for a short amount of time, until we arrive at your destination.
Consider it a blindfold of sorts
This is simply to ensure fairness.

Get in...!
Get in...!
ざわ..
ざわ..
ざわ..
ざわ..
Get in ...!


SLAM
THUD
Ahh ...!
You, too...!
10
SNAP
SNAP
OPEN
LOCKED
SNAP
SNAP
Waahhh...!
10

CLUNK
CLUNK
CLUNK
CLUNK
CLUNK
CLUNK
10
CLUNK
10
!!
TIP

But where ...?
We're being moved...!

We're being loaded somewhere ...
!!
On a truck ...?
CLUNK
SLAM
10
3
11
CLUNK
10

WHOOSH
LURRRCH
Huh ...?
I know this feeling ...
It's ...
10
It's an elevator ...!
We're still moving...
10
How far ...?
How far up are they taking us...?

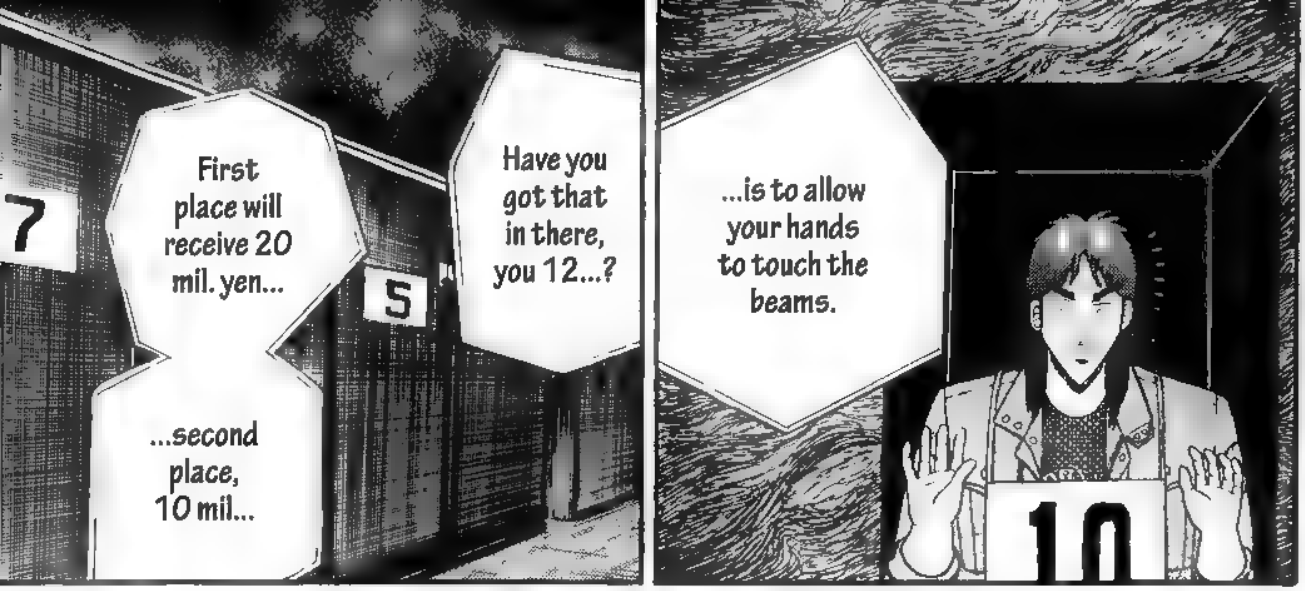
.....
10
TRUDGE TRUDGE TRUDGE
WHOOSH
Ngh ...!
11
0
.....
.....
TRUDGE
TRUDGE
CLANG
8
7
6
5
Man ...!
RATTLE

What's happening...?

Are they carrying us somewhere...?
...is going on?
What in the world...
10

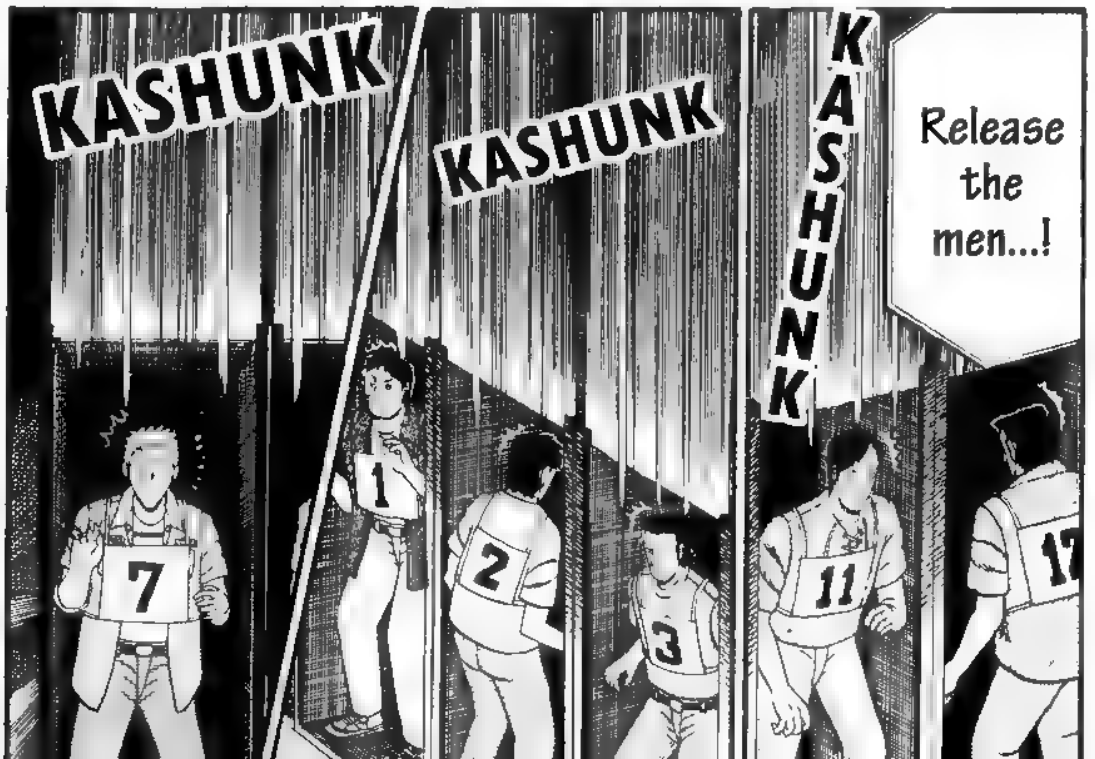
What in the world is happening ...!?
Our apologies for keeping you all waiting...
Ahem ...
POP HISS CRACK
Man ...!
Welcome, to the Starside Soiree...!
Ngh ...!

The gauntlet of courage, Brave Men's Road...!
...is about to begin...
Tonight's main event...
...for this game are extremely simple.
The rules...
Brave what...?
.....?
10
...to arrive on the other side.
...is to be the first, even by a millisecond ...
The one and only objective...
There are no details, no fine print to remember.
The only way to be disqualified ...
What other side...?
The other side...?
10
10

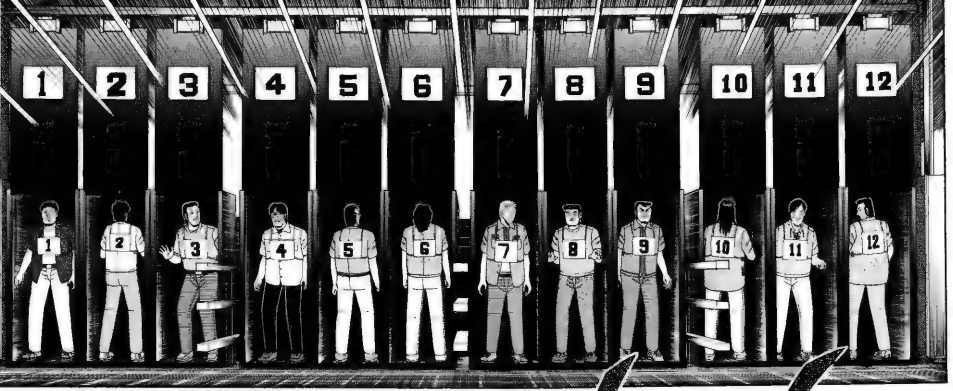

7
First place will receive 20 mil. yen...
...second place, 10 mil...
5
Have you got that in there, you 12...?
...is to allow your hands to touch the beams.
10

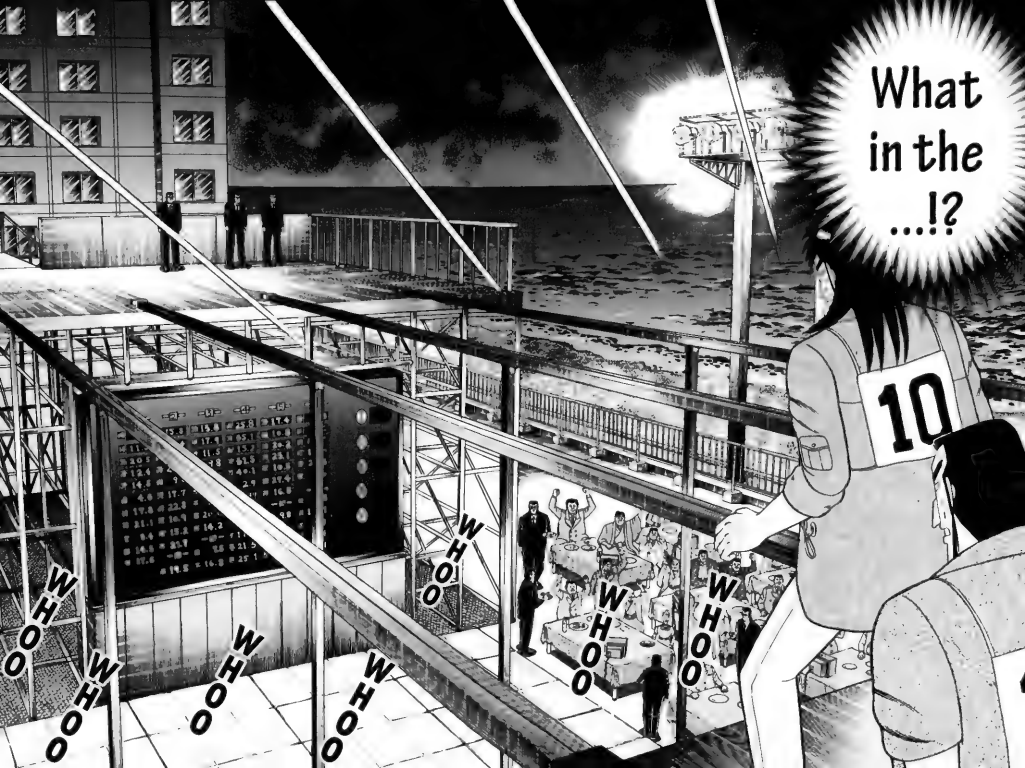
...our 12 young down-and-outs!
Without further ado...
Can you believe the kind of relief we're offering these poor, sad debtors...!?
There's big money on the line!

To the gauntlet of courage ...!



The Brave Men's Road...!




What in the ...!?
10
WHOO
WHOO
WHOO
WHOO
WHOO
WHOO
WHOO

WHOO
WHOO
WHOO
WHOO
WHOO
WHOO
WHOO
WHOO
WHOO
Run for it ...!
Make a run for it ...!
Go!
Go!
Go!
Show us what you got!

Number seven ...!
WHOO
WHOO
Number five, go...!
WHOO

WHOO
What're you doing...!? You bums...!
Don't you want the money ...!?
WHOO
WHOO

I'm counting on you, kid...
WHOO
WHOO
Number ten...!

SPLAT

WHOO
WHOO
WHIFF
Don't just stand there with your tongue hanging out...!

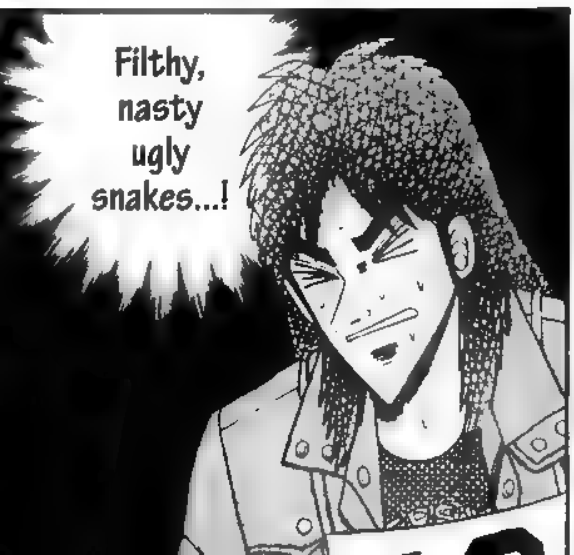
10

Eeheeheehee
WHOO
Hehehe ...

BWAHAHAHA

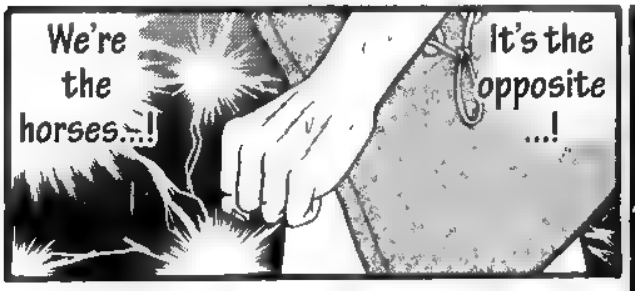
Those snakes...!
WHOOO
WHOOO
WHOOO

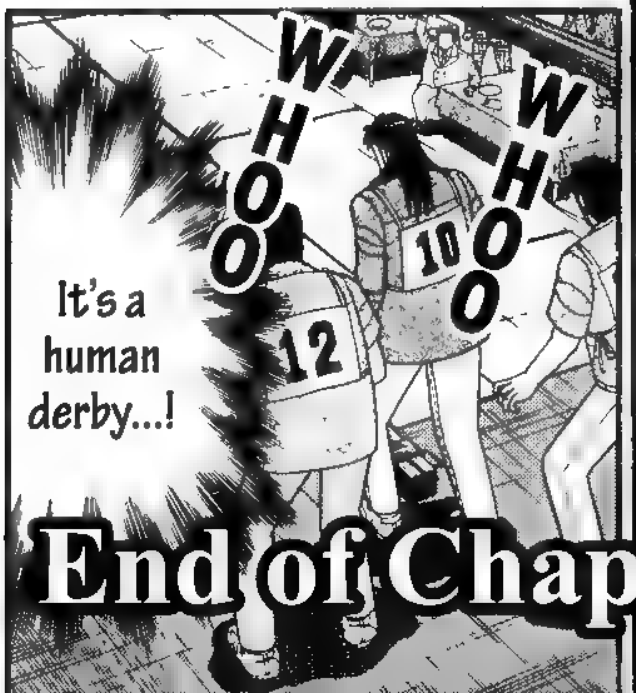
Ngh ...!


Filthy, nasty ugly snakes...!

Those snakes ...
10

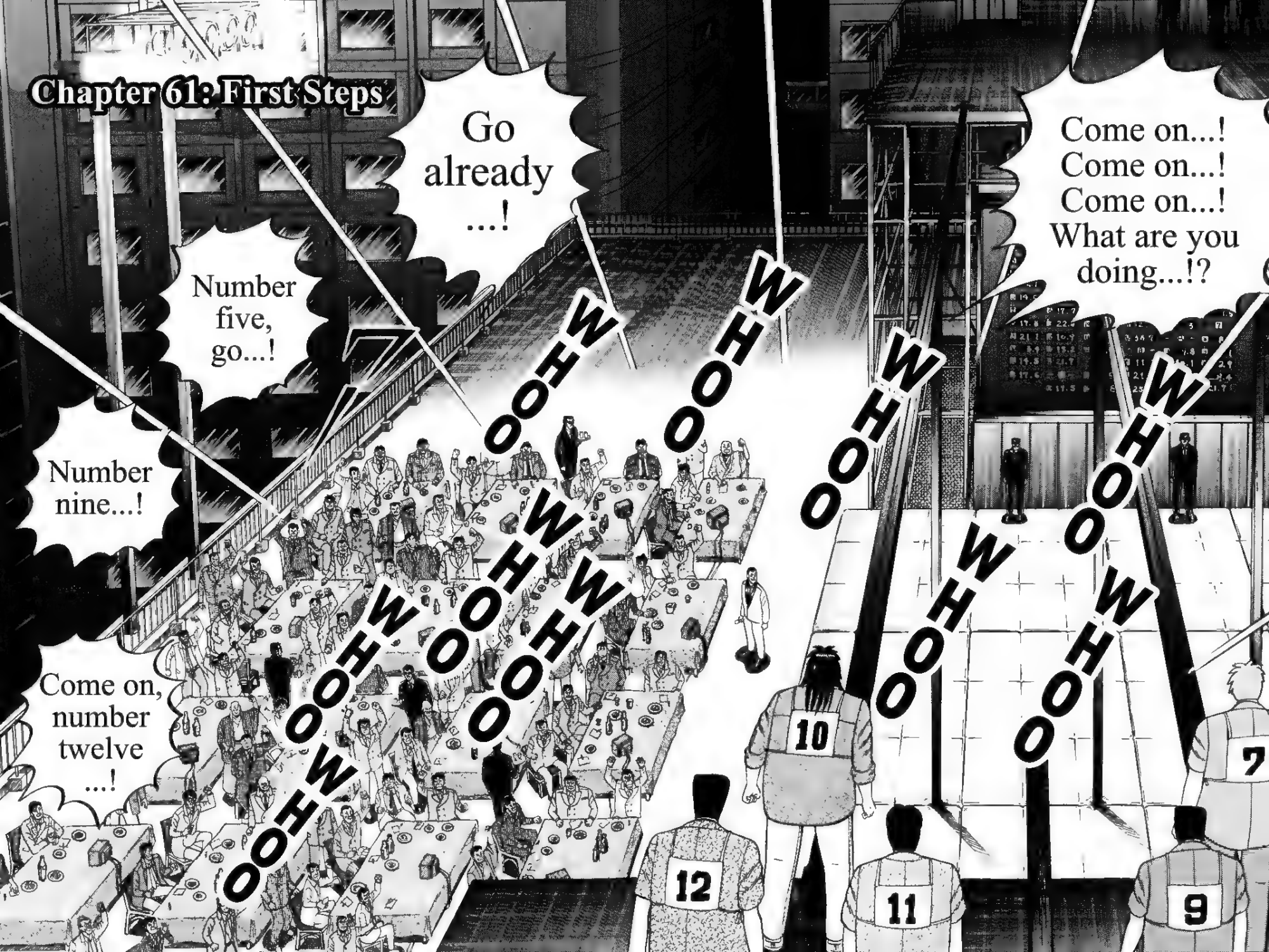
They're betting on us...!





End of Chapter 60

WHOOO
WHOOO
WHOOO
WHOOO
WHOOO
WHOOO
BANG
BANG


Chapter 61: First Steps
Go already ...!
Number five, go...!
Number nine...!
Come on, number twelve ...!
WHOOO

MHOO
MHOO
MHOO
Run ...!
MHOO
Go!
Go!
Go!
MHOO
Go! Go! Go!
Go!
Go!
Go!
MHOO
Go!
Go!
Go!
SLAM

ざわ…
Go...!
Go...!
Go...!

ざわ…ざわ

No one moved ...
……
ざわ…
10
It was unbelievable ...
10
12
11

ざわ…
ざわ…
They stood, stricken …
Not a single player …

We'd be left with broken bones...
...and that's only if we're lucky.

That's gotta be eight, maybe ten meters …
Go...!
Go...!

Ngh ...!

……
Go...!

……

……
… made his move.
ざわ…

What would happen to us if we fell...?
WHOOO
WHOOO
10
11
12

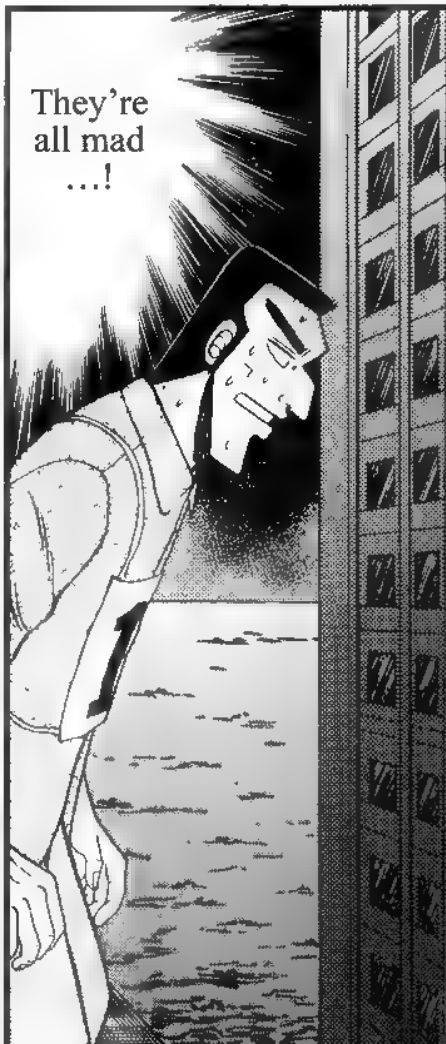
You crazy jackals …!
10
A fall from this height would kill us …!
Why don't you go…!?
Lousy jerks …!
What's wrong with you …!?
12
Betting money on us …
You're insane …!
…play this crazy game…
There's something wrong with you people …!
Making us…
2

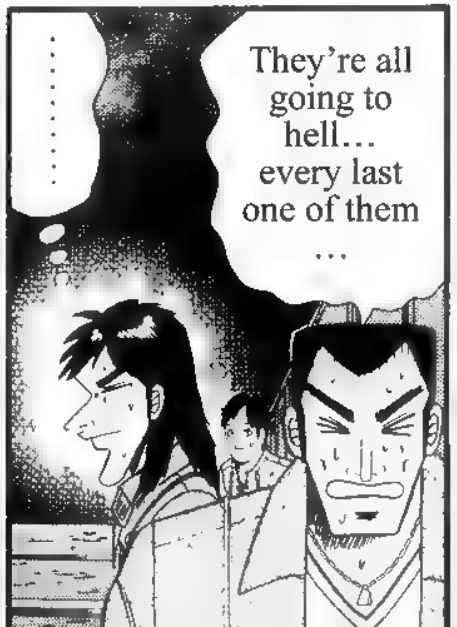
BOOO
BOOO
BOOO
You're worse than snakes ...!
You call yourselves human ...!?
WOOH
WOOH
WHIF
WHIF
WHIF
Augh ...!
Wahh ...!
SPLAT
SPLAT
CLANG
Quiet, scum ...!
Y-You animals ...!
WOOH
WOOH
12

WOOHOO
Scum …!
Scum …!
WOOHOO
Scum …!
Scum …!
Uggh …
Scum …!
WOOHOO
Scum …!
Scum …!
WOOHOO
Scum …!
Did you forget about the prize money for first and second place…?
You're here to run. What else are you good for…!?
Quit jabbering, pig…!
...from the fee we paid to join the party and bet on the games!
That's our money you're pocketing…

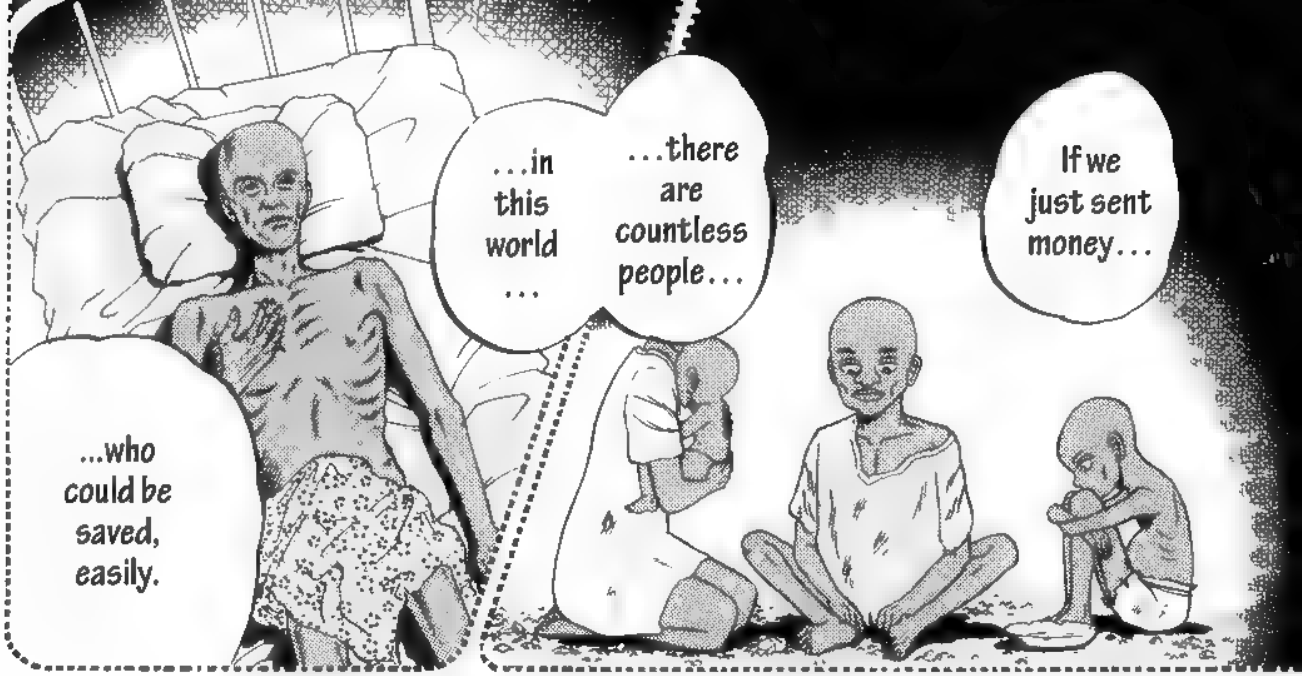
Jump …!
Jump …!
HOOOW
HOOOW
… then why don't you jump down from there!
That's the way it is. You got a problem with that…
If you want the money you better run for it, you trash …!
…you might have to live the rest of your life in a hospital!
If you jump feet first maybe you won't die…!
Of course …
HOOOW
BWAHAHAHA
12
Kyahahaha …
Hehehe …

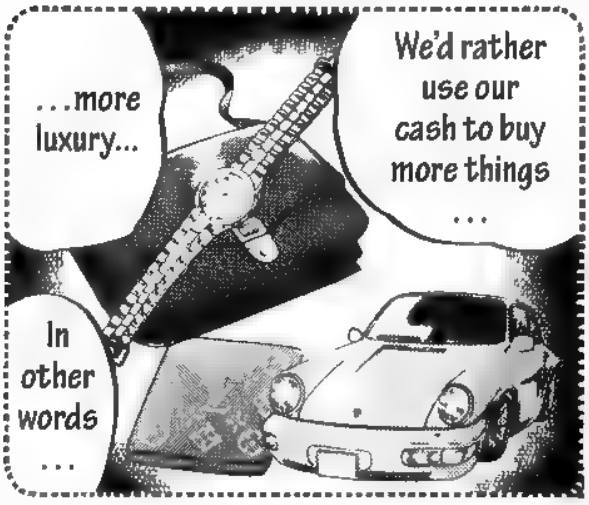
Lower than low …
They're inhuman …


They're all mad …!

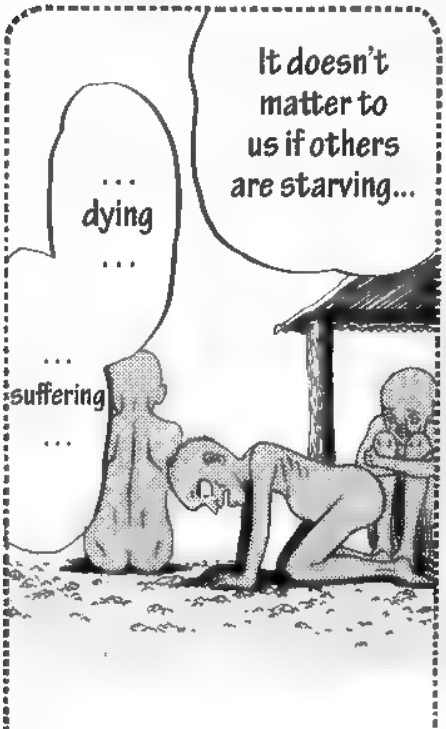

……
They're all going to hell… every last one of them …

He may think they're monsters ...
but there's no big difference between us up here and them down there
There's really not that big a difference ...
We're just as cold...
Doing our best not to get involved with others ...
Maybe we're not so depraved ...
WOOH WOOH WOOH
...that people stop and take notice...
But watching another person suffer...
... without offering to lend a hand ...
Standing by indifferently while others die...
It's no different ...
We're all the same ...
10
10
WOOH


...who could be saved, easily.
...in this world ...
...there are countless people...
If we just sent money...


...more luxury...
We'd rather use our cash to buy more things ...
In other words ...

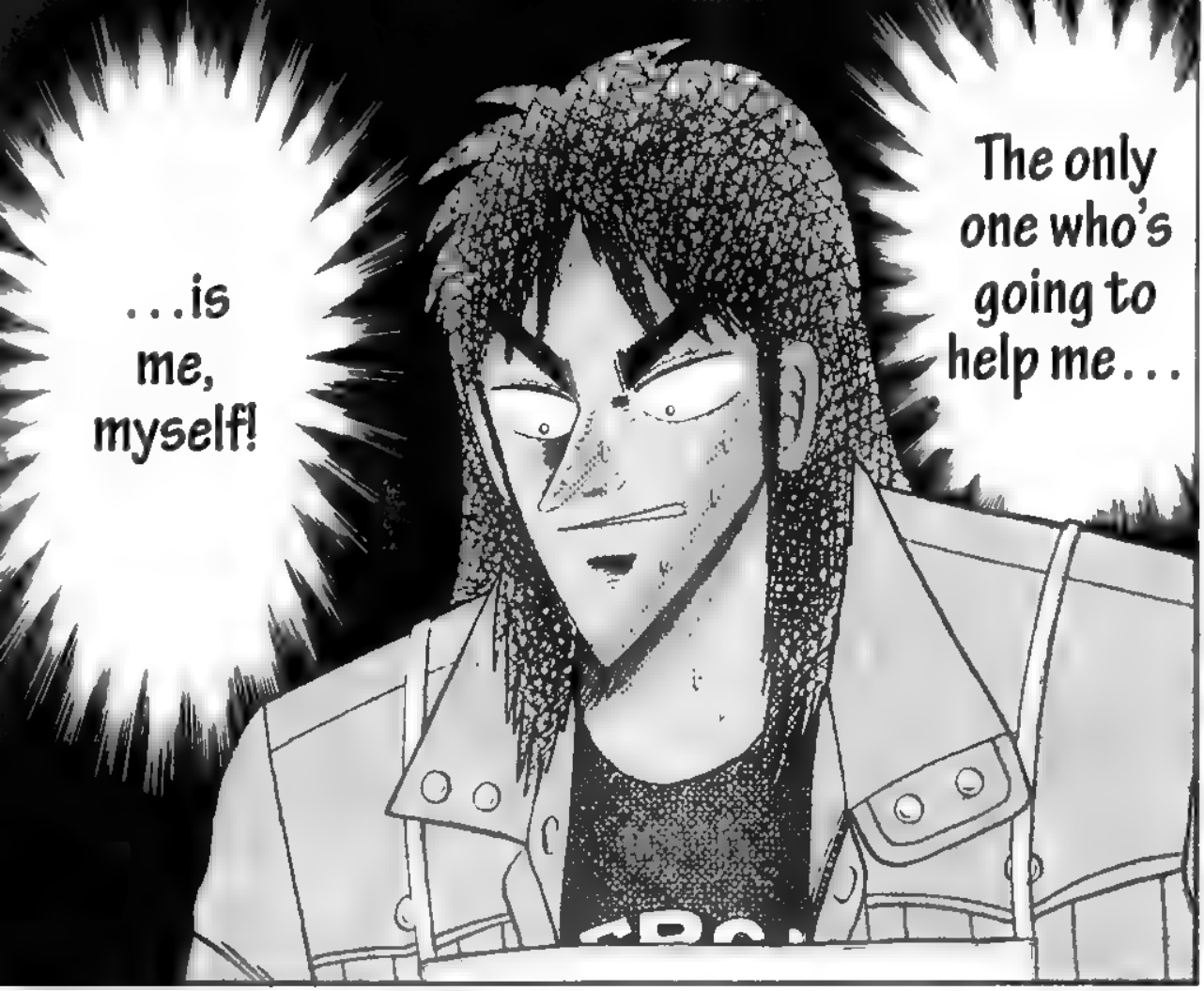
Sending money is the last thing on anybody's mind.
But we pretend not to see them ...


It doesn't matter to us if others are starving...
... dying ...
... suffering ...

...we just can't be bothered.
... in the end...

It's true ...
...maybe they're just more honest with themselves than we are.
If they seem too enthusiastic ...
Those guys down there are just more self-aware...
We can't be bothered...
HOOOW
99.9% of people ...
They're just being honest ...!
HOOOW
HOOOW
HOOOW
HOOOW
... even if they stand by without helping ...
The reason being...
...wouldn't help their fellow man.

...
torments
them!
It
never
...
Their
conscience
...
.....
10
There's no
use relying
on their help
...! On
anyone
else's...!
10
In
that
case
...
That's
the
truth
...!
Me
...!
10
There's
only
me
...!
!! their conscience will
never torment them!


. . . is me, myself!
The only one who's going to help me . . .

. . . this could be my chance!
If no one else is willing to go . . .

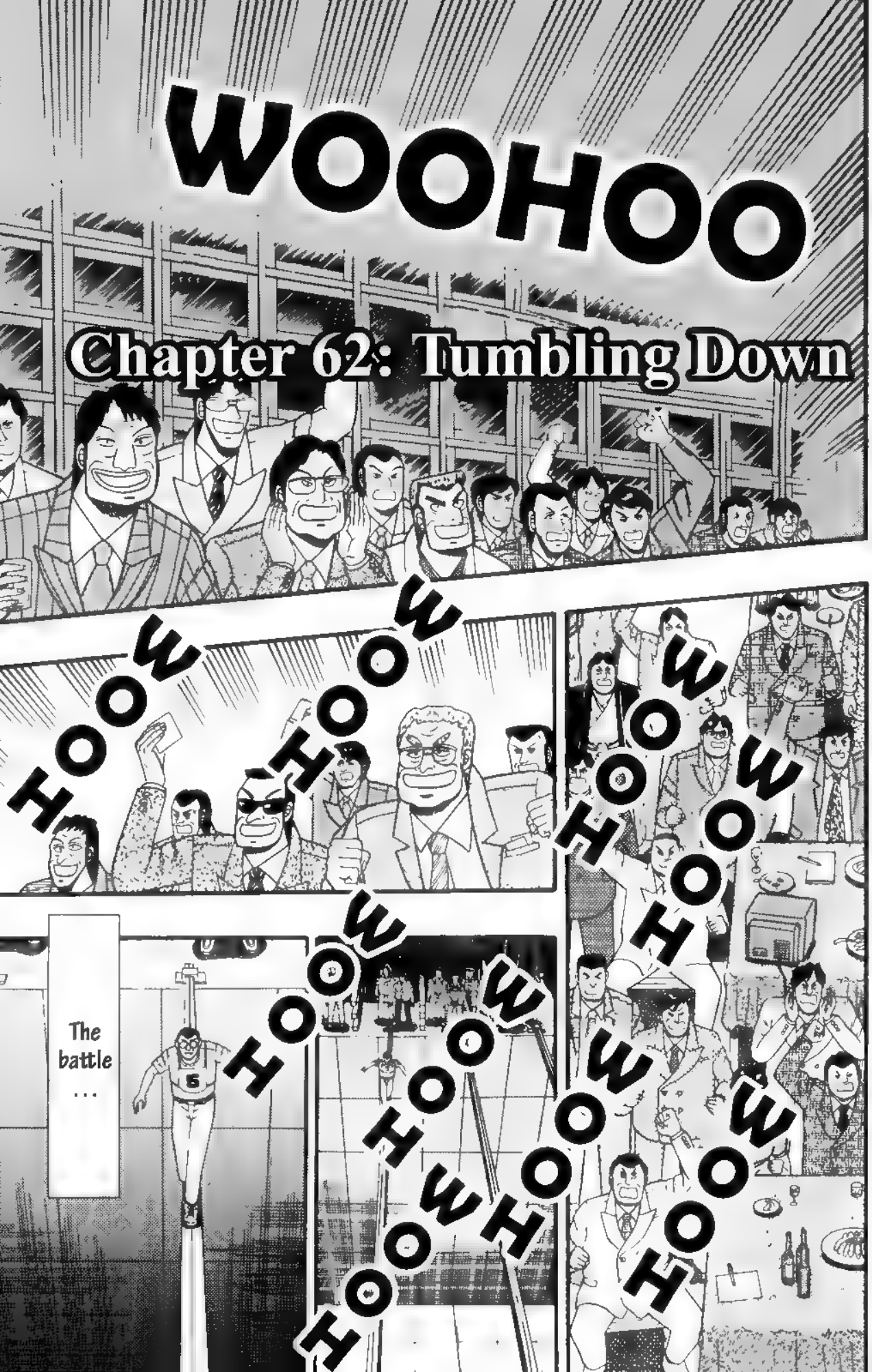
My big chance . . . !
10

Go . . . !

End of Chapter 61

WOOHOO

Chapter 62: Tumbling Down


HOOWWOOHOOWWOOHOOWWOOH

...had begun!

6
7
...was that the players were split, three to each of the four bridges, and could not use the other bridges.
One of the only rules to the race ...
HOOOW
HOOOW
Shuffling quickly, he was already five meters along...
...had made the first move.
HOOOW
On the second of the four bridges, player number 5 ...
.....
Aghh ...!
STAGGER
When ...
HOOOW

Aiieee ...!
SLIP

...!
Ahhh ...!
CRACK
AIEEEEE
CRUNCH
GUSH
GUSH
DRIP
Ahh ...
It hurts ...
SQUELCH

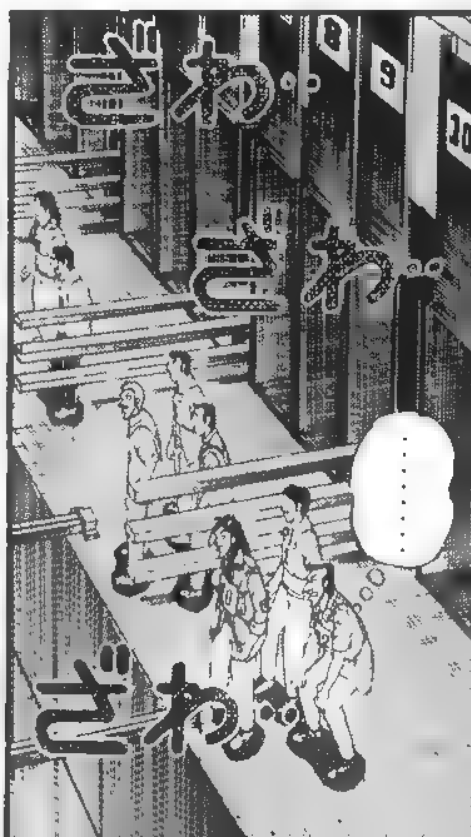
BWAHAHAHA
It hurts …!
It hurts …it hurts…
CRAWL

……
11
10
2

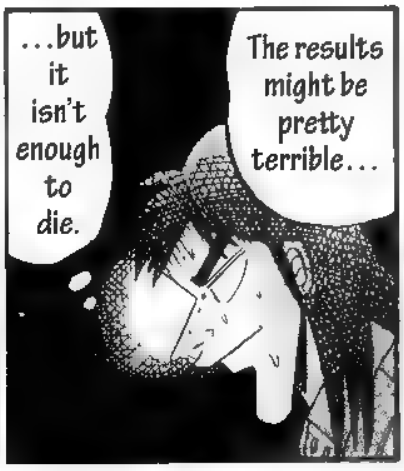
Eeeheehee …
Hehehe …

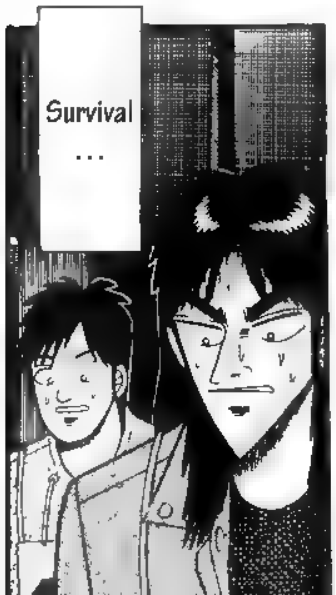
This is too much...!
No way ...!

……
I knew it…
It's impossible …we'll never make it...
12
10


ざわ…
ざわ…
……
ざわ…

...many of the players lost their will to fight...
Having witnessed this horrible accident ...
.....
I won't do it ...!
ざわ...
10
11
4
6
7
However some, watching the same event...
.....
...as if to wave the white flag.
Collapsing where they stood ...
ざわ...
ざわ...
1
.....
Hmph ...
1
10
For them, the accident ...
...came to entirely different conclusions.
AHHH
HOOW
HOOW
HOOW





It's time to go ...!

...but still Kaiji did not move.
There was nothing left to stop him ...
All that remained was to walk across ...!
... without dying.
The hope... the possibility ...that tragedy could be averted. That they could fall...
Since Kaiji was standing at the front of the line, in front of the bridge, no one else from his group could cross either...
Or so he had thought ...
That was his big mistake ...
.....
He had all the time in the world ...
It was easy to drag his feet, to postpone his decision.
Kaiji had blundered ...!
Ahhh ...
Ahh ...
Ahhh ...!
Another player slipped past ...!
SWOOSH
Indeed ...
No ...!
Ah ...
10
11

Kaiji was clearly not the only one in this game...
.....
Ahh ...
HOOOH
HOOOH
HOOOH
... was in dire straits.
DASH
Everyone standing there on that platform...
...in order to win.
HOOOH
...there were plenty who were more than willing!
HOOOH
They were desperate ...as long as their lives weren't at stake...
DASH
DASH

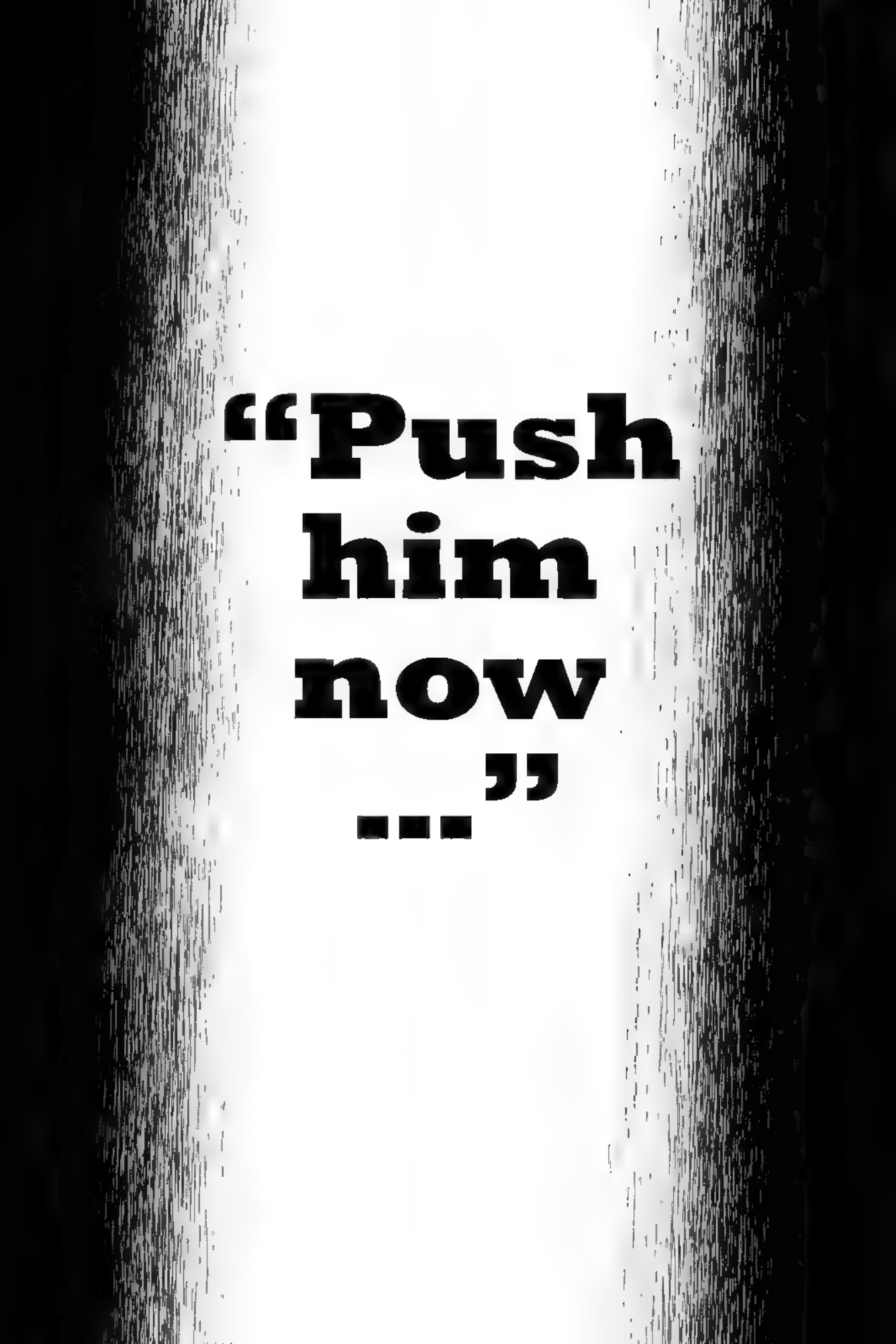
The fight was on ...!
HOOOW
HOOOW
HOOOH
HOOOW
Their fragile bodies on the line...
Those fools ...
They can't be serious ...
What are they thinking ...?
The group ...
...was split neatly ...
...between those who went and those who stayed.
HOOOW
HOOOW
10
.....
Kaiji was one of those who went...

...so stupid!?
How could I be ...
Man ...!
.....
10
What was I thinking ...?
...and someone slipped right past me.
...that I let my guard down...
...on the back for being such a pro...
I was so busy patting myself ...
...messes up big, and falls off the bridge...
Unless the guy in front ...
...there's no way for me to get past him.
Even if I catch up with the guy in front of me...
...of a single foot.
This bridge is barely the width ...

It's hard to imagine that my bridge takes both first and second.
I'll be lucky if I get second ...
Players on the other bridges are starting to cross...
Worse ...
...first place is already out of the question.
...this is just a worthless bet.
In the end
It's a worthless bet...!
I've got all the risk, but no chance of a return ...
Number 10...!
I don't even stand to gain anything by it.
I'm just a guy out to risk his life...
WOOOOH
Now ...!
Now ...!
Now ...!
Huh ...?
11
10
Now's your chance ...!
Go for it ...!

?
Now ...!
Now ...!
Now ...!
?
Now ...!
SHUP
SHUP
SHUP
10
11
Ahh ...!
Chance for what ...?
NOW...
NOW...
Ahh ...!
Now ...!
Now ...!
Now ...!
?
Why's he running, all of a sudden ...?
Huh ...?
?
8
8
5

Now ...!
Now ...!
Now ...!
He couldn't hear them clearly, above the noise ...
The angry cries and screams ...
...of the crowd. But he knew, suddenly ...
...what they were shouting ...
WOOH
"Now ..."
It was the same cry on each of their lips...
...but they were out for blood ...
They were chanting like spectators at a ball game...
Now... now...
WOOH
They wanted something ...
WOOH


“Push
him
now
...”

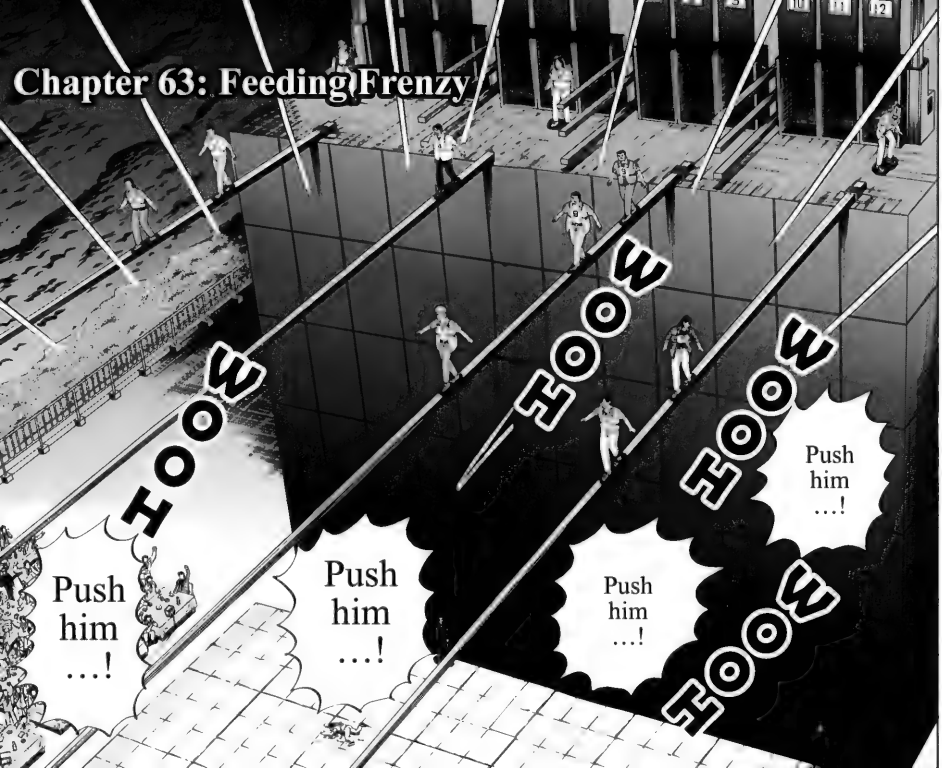
Push him ...!
Push him now ...!
Push him now ...!
Knock him down ...!
Push him outta your way...!
Knock him down ...!
Push him off ...

... and the path would be clear !

Ahh ...!
WOOO

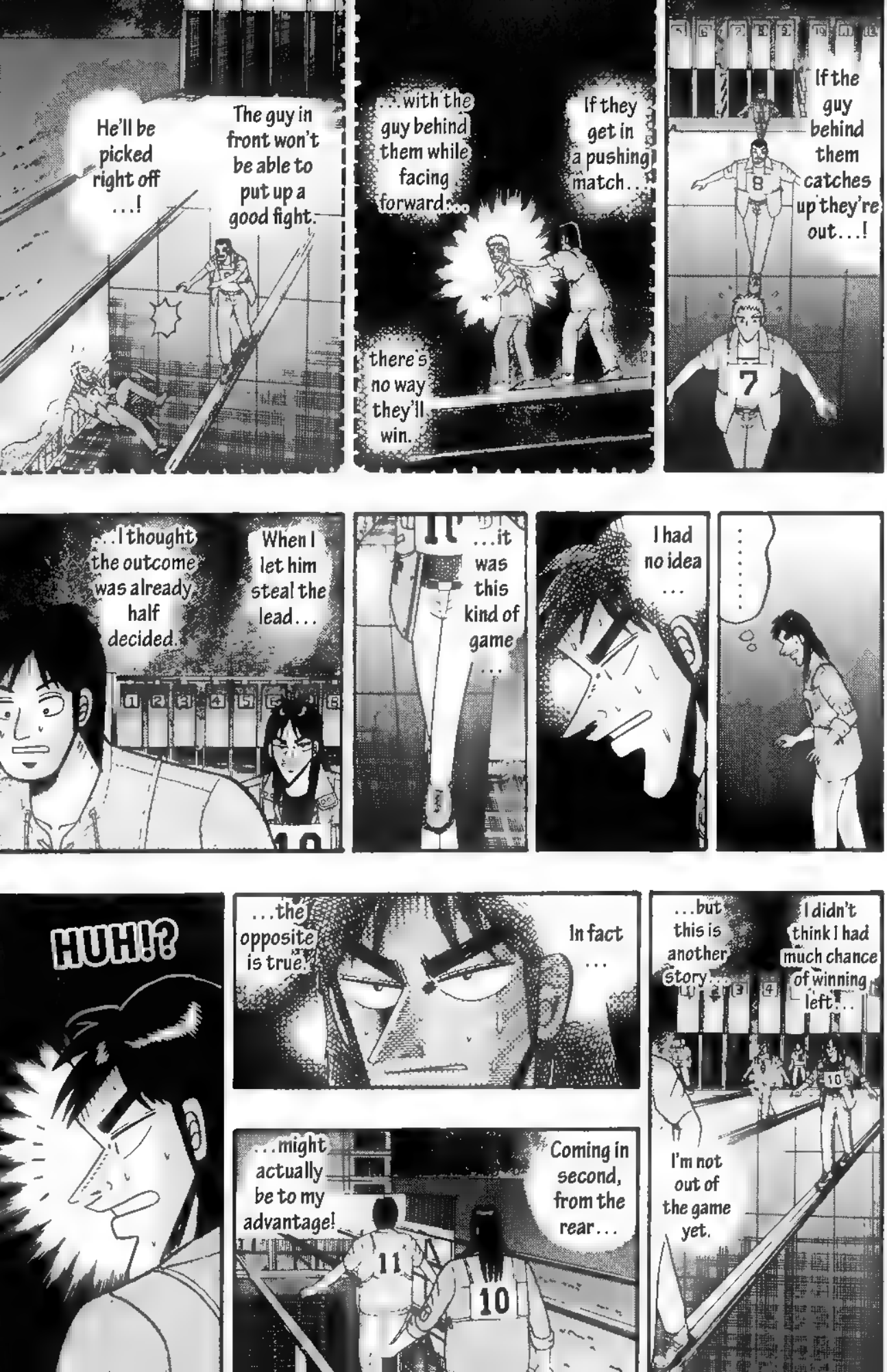
Push him … In order to win, you push somebody else…

Push him … Push him …!


Chapter 63: Feeding Frenzy
MOOH
MOOH
MOOH
MOOH
Push him ...!
Push him ...!
Push him ...!
...! out of the way!

Ngh …
DASH
Eek …!
DASH
Ack …!
. . . . . .

…had better run for it!
…then at this rate, the guys in front…
If pushing is allowed …


He'll be picked right off...!
The guy in front won't be able to put up a good fight.
...with the guy behind them while facing forward...
If they get in a pushing match...
there's no way they'll win.
If the guy behind them catches up they're out...!
...I thought the outcome was already half decided.
When I let him steal the lead...
...it was this kind of game...
I had no idea...
.....
HUH!?
...the opposite is true.
In fact...
...might actually be to my advantage!
Coming in second, from the rear...
...but this is another story...
I didn't think I had much chance of winning left...
I'm not out of the game yet.

If that's true ...

7
8
10
...is the one who goes last!

You're lucky, going third. No one can push you off...!
Go...! Go...!
Number twelve... What are you doing ...!?
Hurry up ...!
The pressure's off...!
HOOW
HOOW
HOOW
HOOW

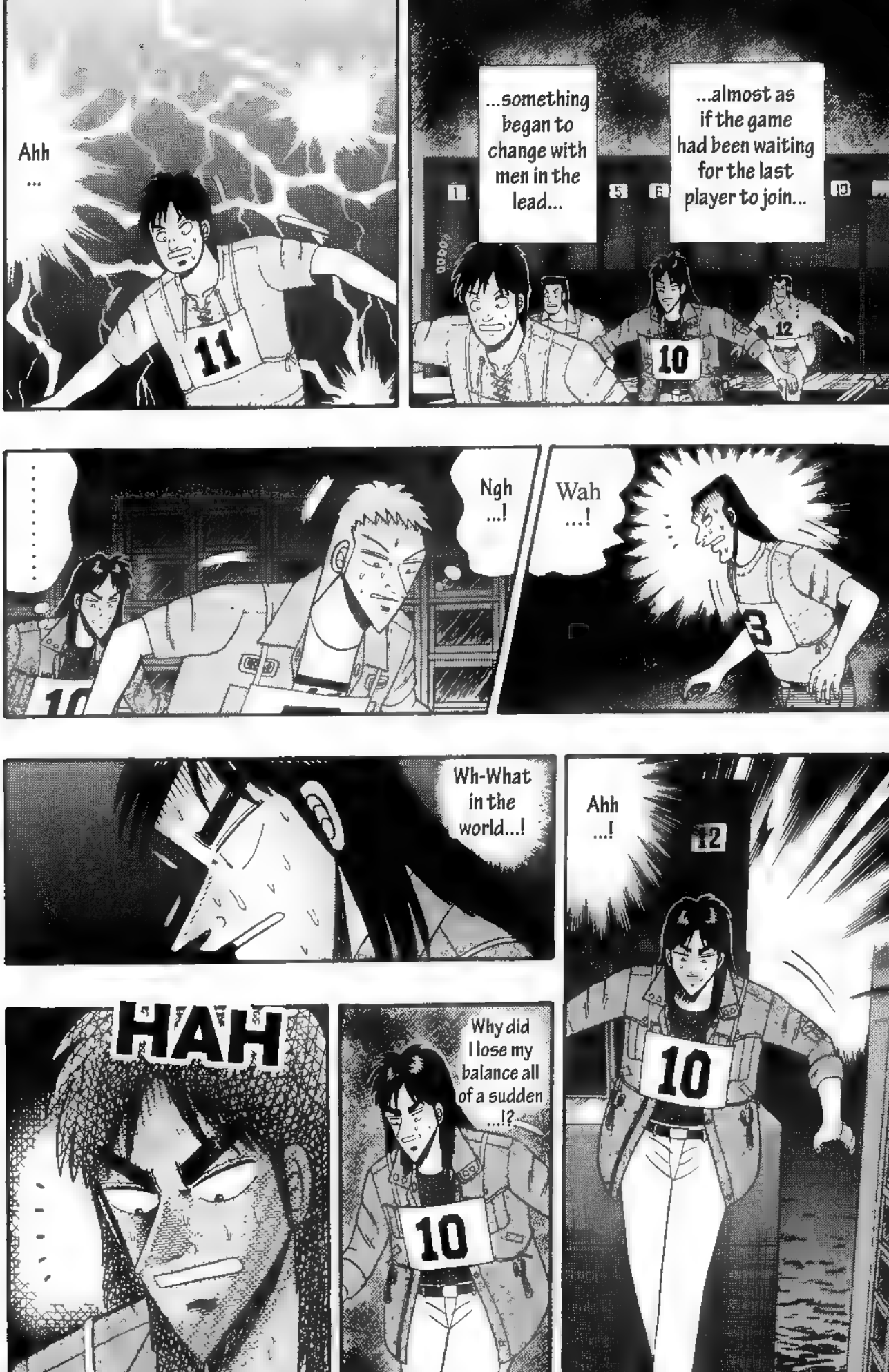
Go, already ...!
HOOW
Go ...!
...you can win!
12
Go ...!
HOOW
...and if you catch up...
If you go now you can catch up...

……
HOOOW
HOOOW
HOOOW
……
12
SOB SOB
SOB SOB
9
1

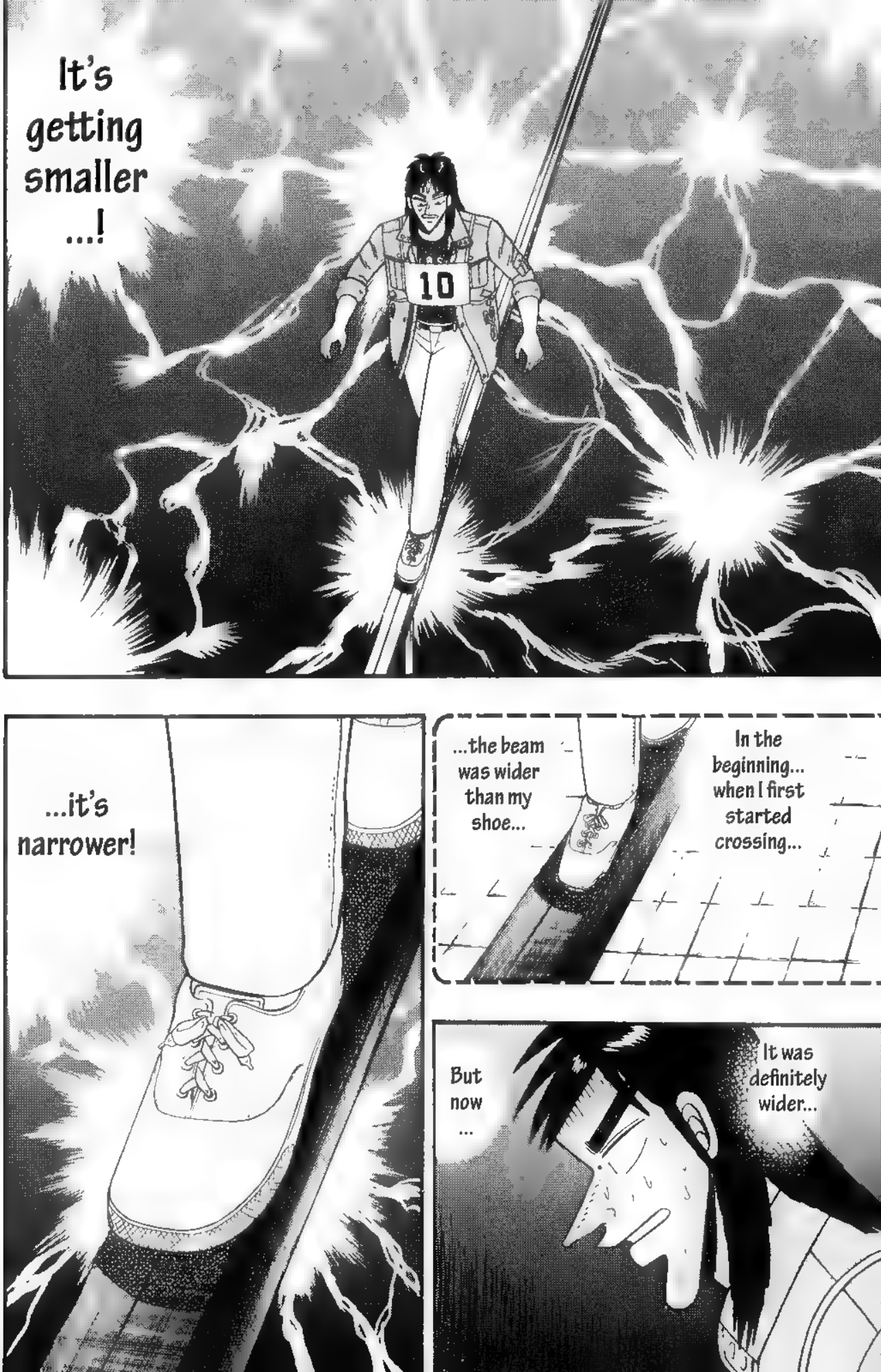
.....
HAH
HAH
4
9
HOOW?
HOOW
Ahh
...!
11
10
12
.....
TAK
12

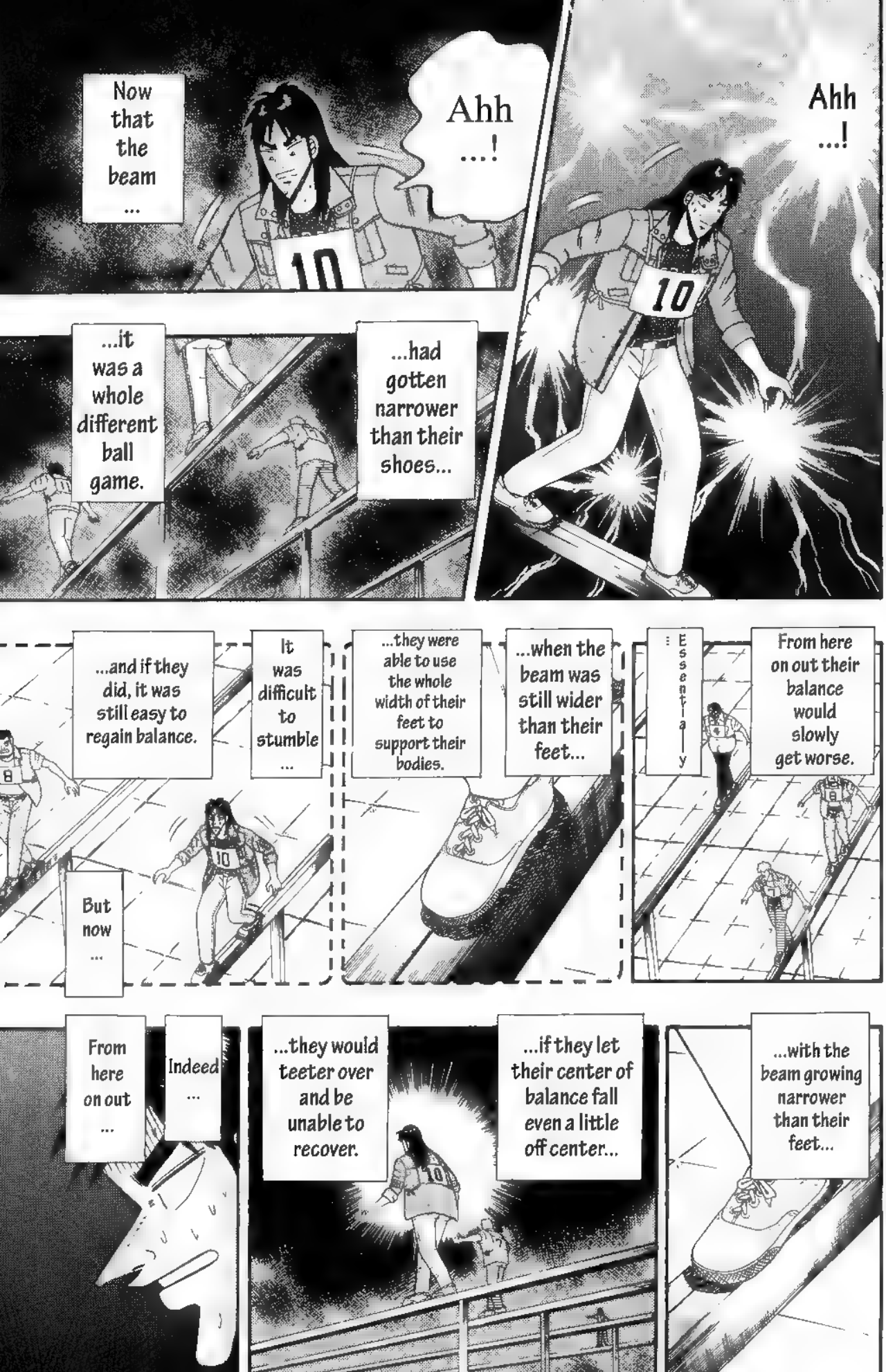
This is bad ...!
He's coming ...!
It looks like...
This is it ...
He's coming up behind me...
...he's finally grown a spine ...

... one after the next ...
They were crossing the other bridges, too...
...Kaiji's group wasn't the only one beginning to cross.
Of the guys left behind...
No more fooling around ...!
The promise of victory was tempting.
...with the players in front, the match would be theirs.
.. in position three had an advantage over the other two.
First, they realized that the player...
There were two main reasons that they began crossing now.
If they could catch up...
: However
...every last man joined the race.
Once these two truths set in...
...was that those who had gone first were still hanging on strong
It seemed ...
The other reason ...
...it would be difficult to fall off.
...that as long as they moved with caution...

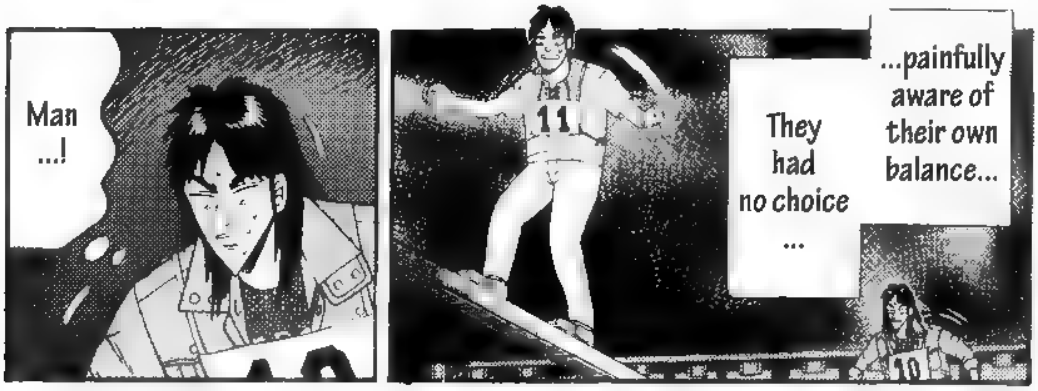

Ahh
...
11
...something began to change with men in the lead...
...almost as if the game had been waiting for the last player to join...
1
5
6
10
12
.....
10
Ngh ...!
Wah ...!
3
Wh-What in the world...!
Ahh ...!
12
10
HAH
Why did I lose my balance all of a sudden ...!?
10

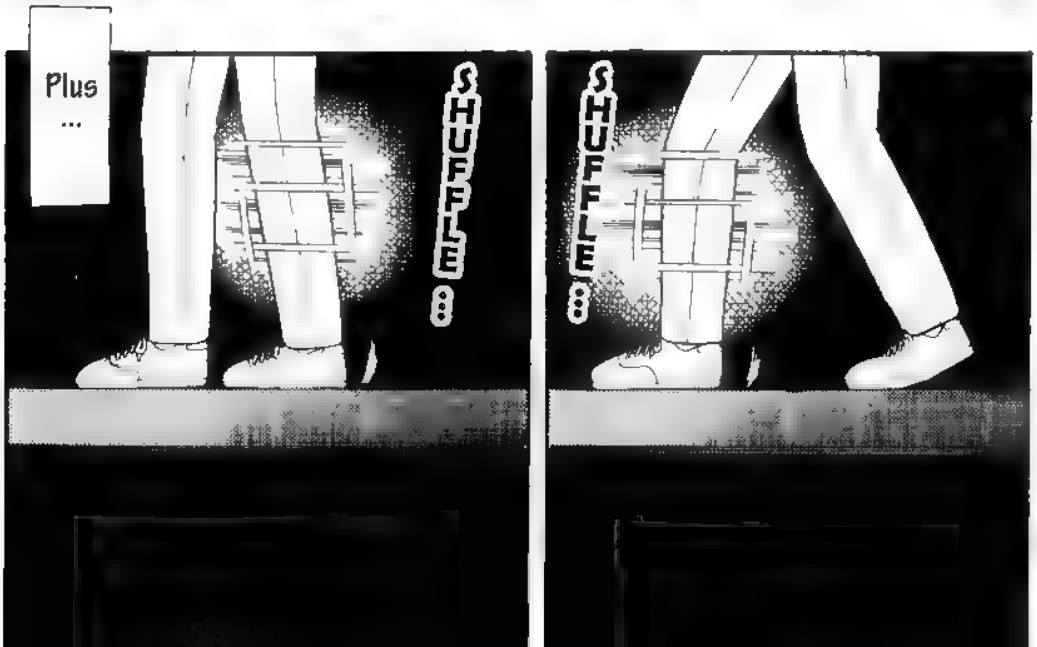
Ahh...!


It's getting smaller ...!
10
...it's narrower!
...the beam was wider than my shoe...
In the beginning... when I first started crossing...
But now ...
It was definitely wider...

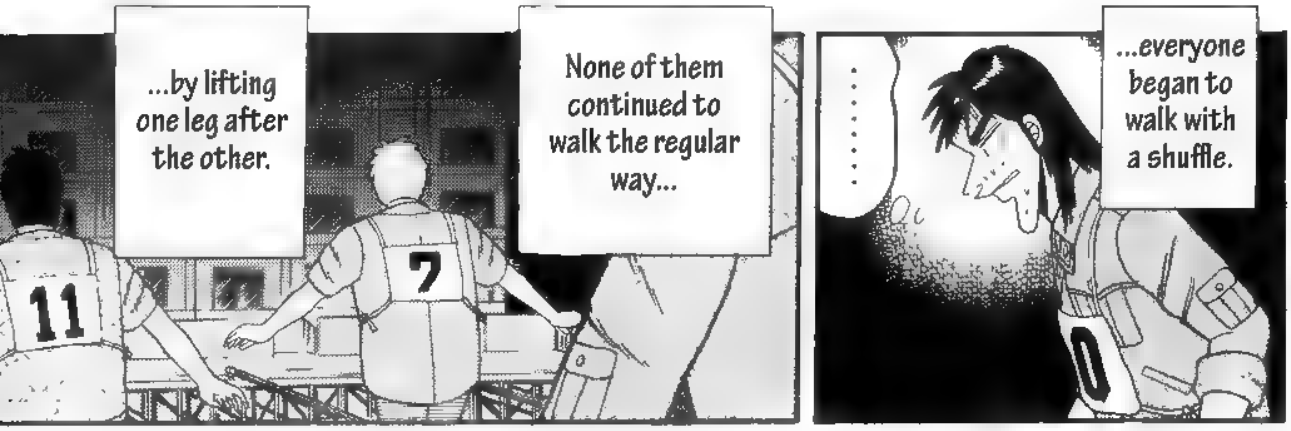

Now that the beam ...
Ahh ...!
10
Ahh ...!
10
...it was a whole different ball game.
...had gotten narrower than their shoes...
...and if they did, it was still easy to regain balance.
It was difficult to stumble ...
But now ...
...they were able to use the whole width of their feet to support their bodies.
...when the beam was still wider than their feet...
Essentially
From here on out their balance would slowly get worse.
From here on out ...
Indeed ...
...they would teeter over and be unable to recover.
...if they let their center of balance fall even a little off center...
...with the beam growing narrower than their feet...

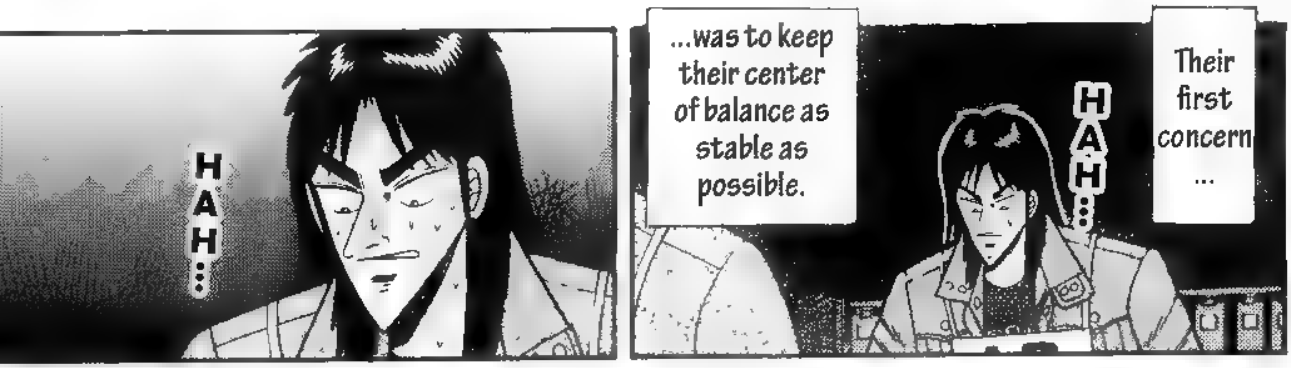
... the slightest misstep could spell doom!





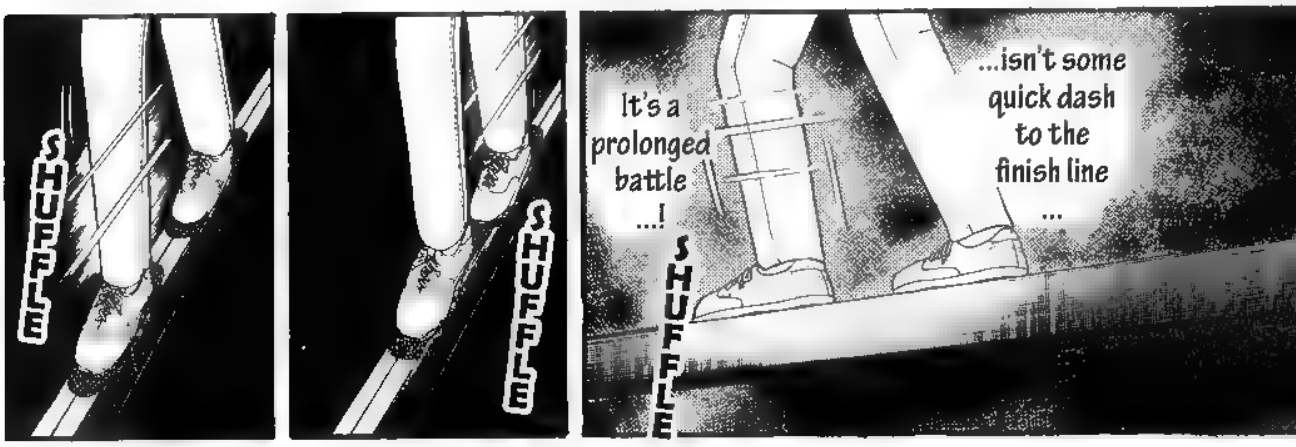
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
...even though no one had taught them to do it, once the beam...
... narrowed ...


...by lifting one leg after the other.
None of them continued to walk the regular way...
11
7
.....
...everyone began to walk with a shuffle.

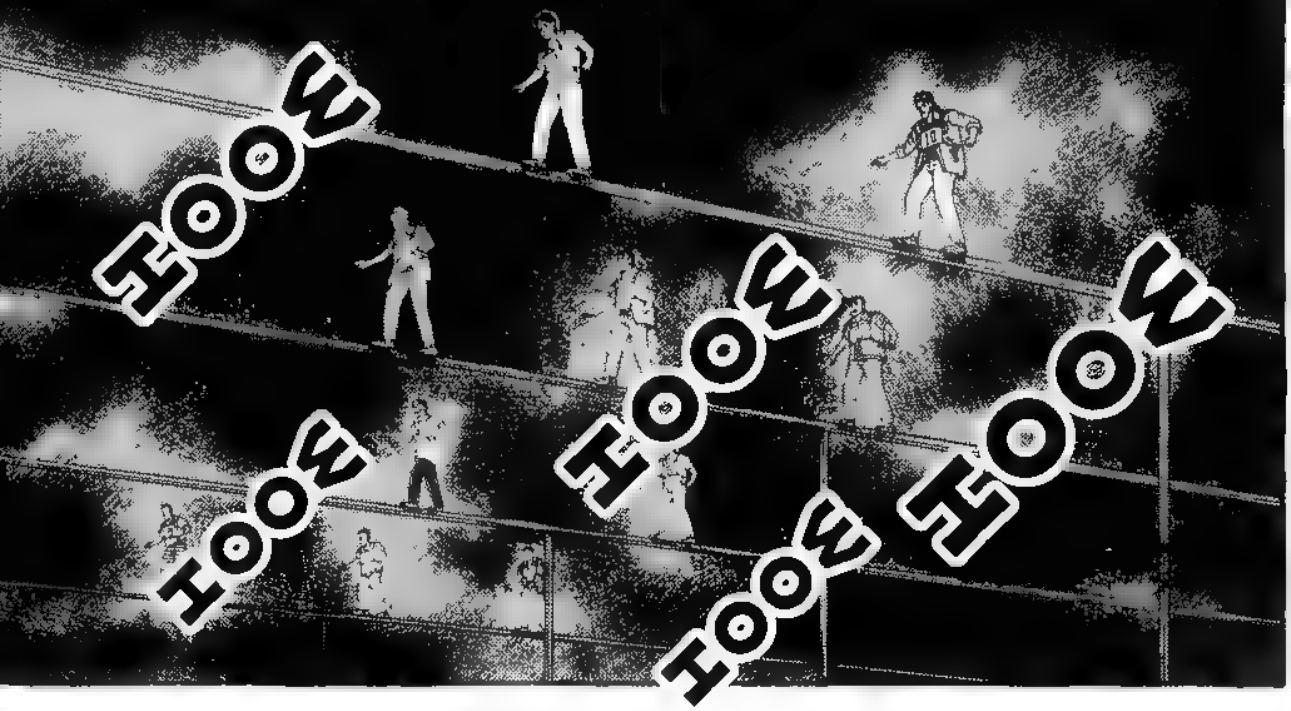

HAH...
...was to keep their center of balance as stable as possible.
HAH...
Their first concern ...

This is my chance ...!
But this is a chance ...!
It's dangerous ...
HAH...

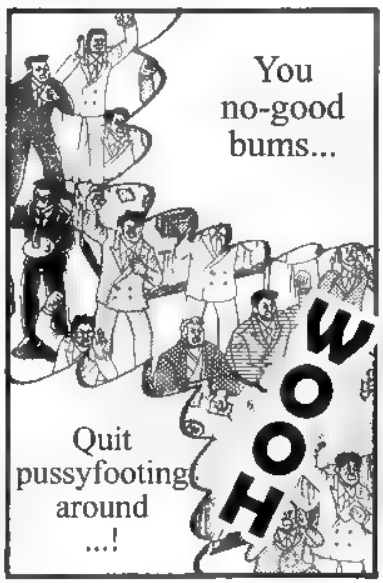
This race ...
...he won't be speeding up...
Obviously ...
...an even harder time than me...
...the guy in front is having ...
If the beam is getting narrower ...
11
10
9


SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
It's a prolonged battle ...!
SHUFFLE
...isn't some quick dash to the finish line ...

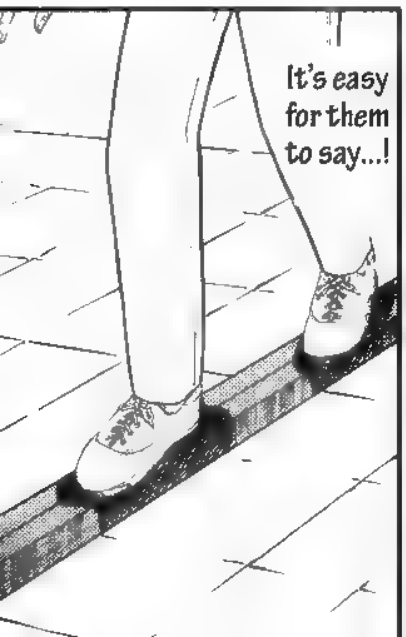
This is my chance ...!
... is catch up!
All I need to do...
10
11
End of Chapter 63


HOOH
HOOH
HOOH
HOOH

Grow a pair already ...!


You no-good bums...
Quit pussyfooting around ...!
WOOH

Hurry up and go ...!
Whaddya think you're doing ...!?
WOOH

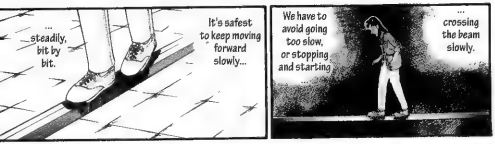

It's easy for them to say...!

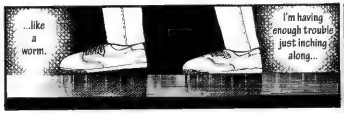
HAH...

Those jerks ...!
.....
10

Run! Run...!
.....
HAH...
HAH...
10
Run ...!

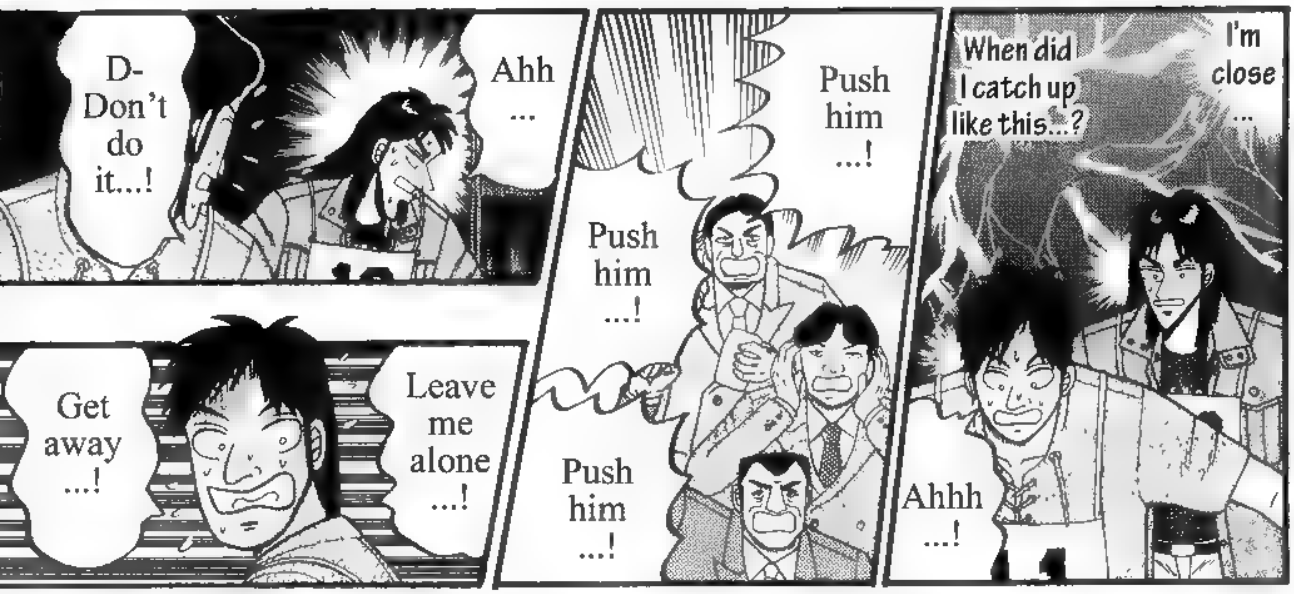
Chapter 64: Charge

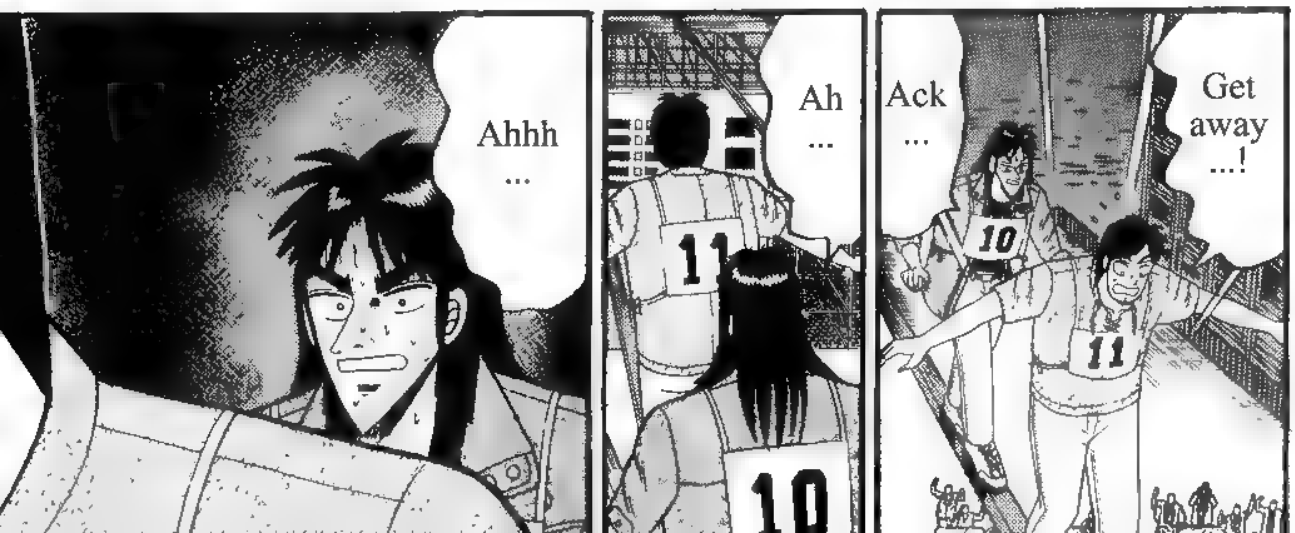




Number 10, what are you doing ...!?
HAHA!
10
9
Huh ...?
GASP
What chance ...?
Go ...!
WOOOOW
Now's your chance ...!
Go for it...!

Eeek ...!
Ahh ...!


D- Don't do it...!
Ahh ...
Get away ...!
Leave me alone ...!
Push him ...!
Push him ...!
Push him ...!
When did I catch up like this...?
I'm close ...
Ahhh ...!

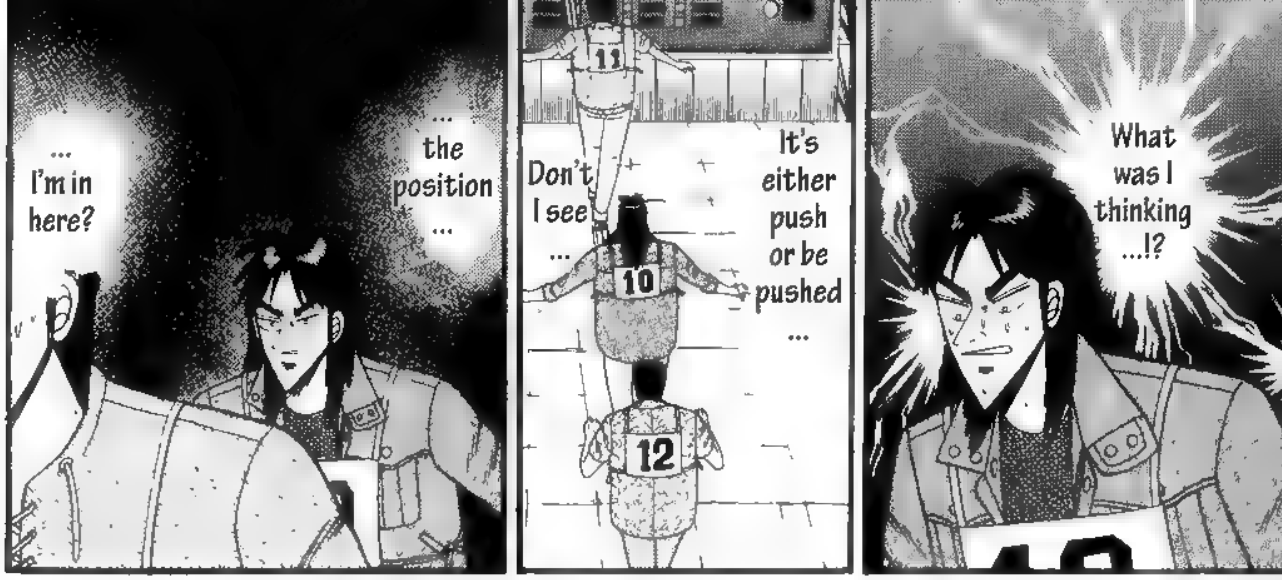

Ahhh ...
Ah ...
Ack ...
Get away ...!

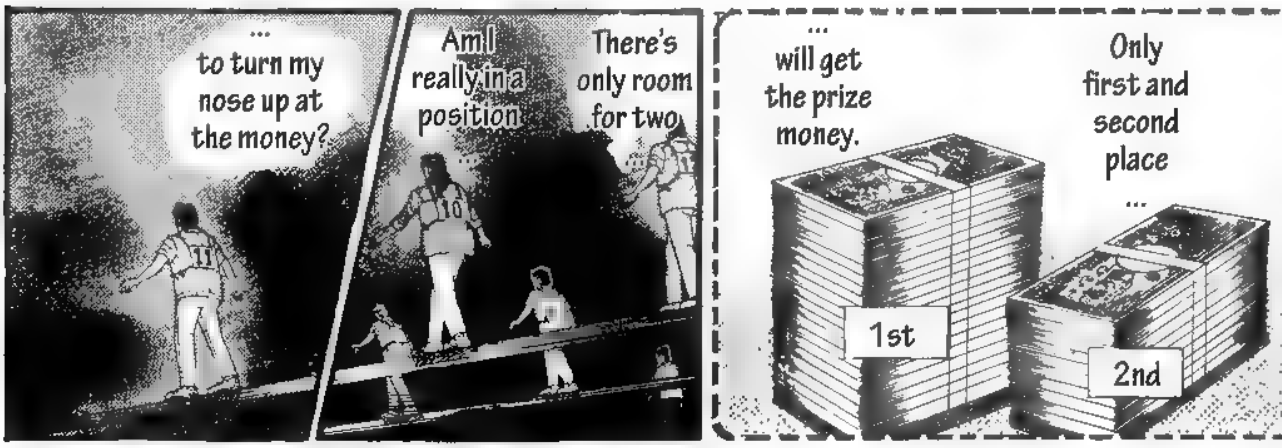
You think this is a game ...!?
Mangy dog ...!
You bum ...!
Don't you wanna be first ...!?
BOO
You're gonna lose the money ...!
You have to knock him down ...!
Don't you get it...!?
WOOH
You blockhead ...!
Don't you wanna be first ...!?
WOOH
WOOH
Ahh ...!
ダーッ
10
Push him ...!
Push him ...!
WOOH
Push him ...!
Do it...!
WOOH
WOOH
Push him ...!

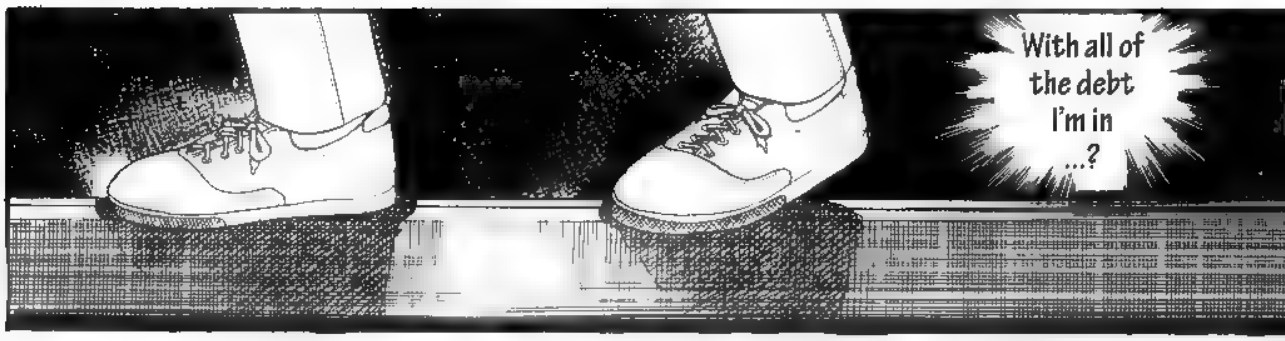
Ahhhh ....!
Ahh ...
Push him ...!
WHIF
10
WHIF
Push him ...!
HOOW
HOOW
Number twelve ...!
Push him ...!
Number twelve ...?
Huh ...?
10

What
...!?

Eeek ...!
Where'd he come from...!?
Where ...
BWAHAHAHA
Filthy dog ...!
HAHAHA
HOHOHO
Serves you right...!
It's cause you're too soft! That's what you get...!
GYAHAHA...
You dipwad ...!
This is no time ...
What they said is true...
They're right ...!
HAH...
HAH!
...to start feeling pity!

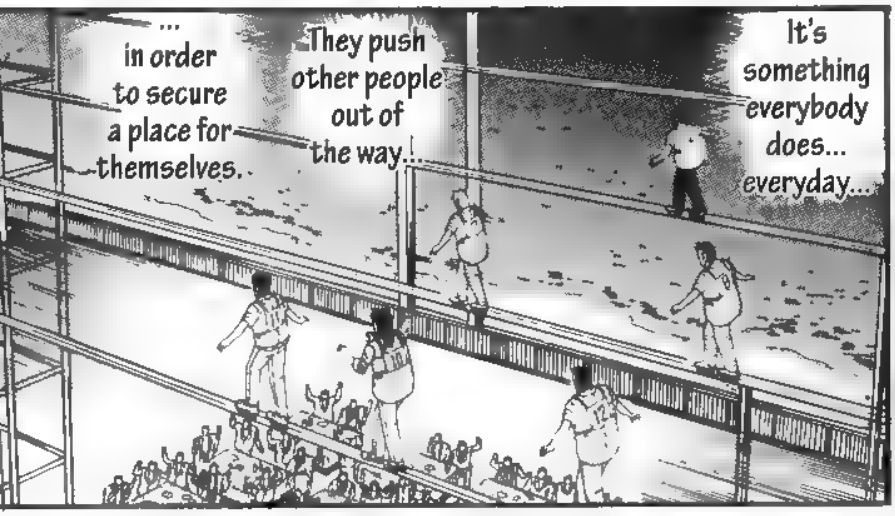

...
I'm in here?
...
the position
...
11
Don't I see ...
10
12
It's either push or be pushed ...
What was I thinking ...!?


...
to turn my nose up at the money?
11
Am I really in a position ...
10
There's only room for two.
...
will get the prize money.
Only first and second place
...
1st
2nd

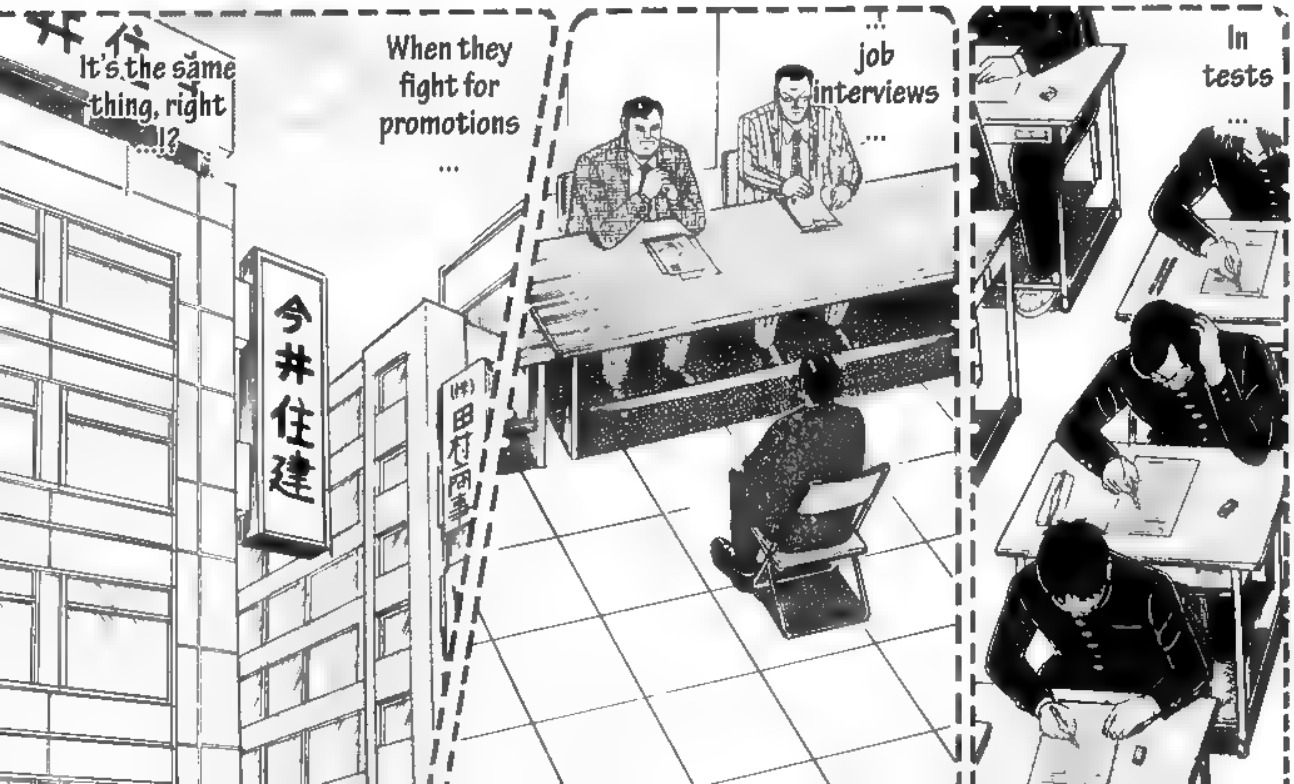

With all of the debt I'm in ...?

My only option ...
I don't have that luxury ...
10
11
I'm not ...!
.....
.....

I've gotta push him to win ...!
It's in order to win ...
It's nothing to feel ashamed about ...
... is to push him!


... in order to secure a place for themselves.
They push other people out of the way...
It's something everybody does... everyday...

I've gotta push him in order to survive
It's nothing wrong ...


It's the same thing, right ...!?
When they fight for promotions ...
... job interviews ...
In tests ...
今井住建
(株)田村商事

It's just the way things are ...
It's the way things are ...
... and some people go down ...
Some people go up ...
... to sit at the top!
There's just not enough space ...
There's not enough space ...
... without ever noticing it.
... got pushed into a corner ...
... us guys
Somewhere along the line ...
... off of the edge ....
... was when they were already throwing us ...
Our only wake-up call ...

Pushed
...
We got pushed
...
There was no room left for us at the table
...
...in a game of musical chairs.
Like being the last one out
...
And down. We. Fell.
.....
10
Am I ...!?
To stay down ...!?
Am I happy to just stay there ...!?
Down to the ground ...!

Now that I'm down ...
...am I gonna stay down!?
.....
No ...!
Then in that case ...
... I've gotta push him!
I've gotta secure a place ...!

My place ...!
A place at the table ...!
11
10

My place at the table ...!
My place ...!
It's my seat ...!
12
10
11

I should be first ...

11

SOB

Why am I crying ...?

All of a sudden ...
I don't get it

Wh-What's going on...?
10
11

SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB
Huh ...?

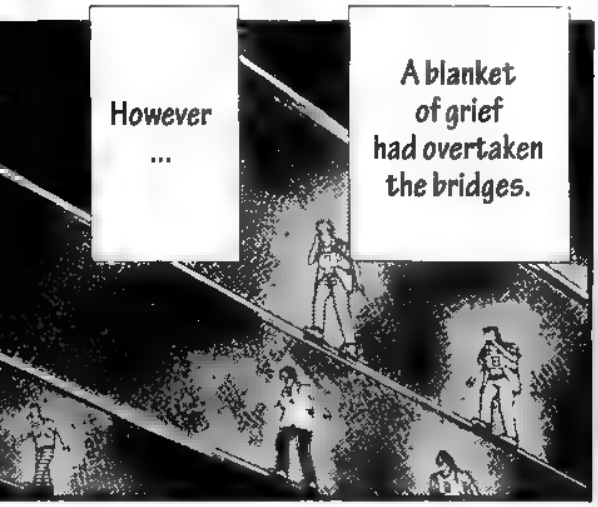
... strange unfathomable tears began pouring from his eyes ...

End of Chapter 64

Chapter 65: Tears Falling

Man ...!
Halfway through the race ...
Why ...?
Why am I crying ...?
Wh-What's wrong with me !?
But Kaiji was not the only one to cry ....
... the tears began pouring.

Not by a long shot ...!
WAHHH
WAH


However ...
A blanket of grief had overtaken the bridges.

...to the left and the right, the men were crying.
Looking around ...

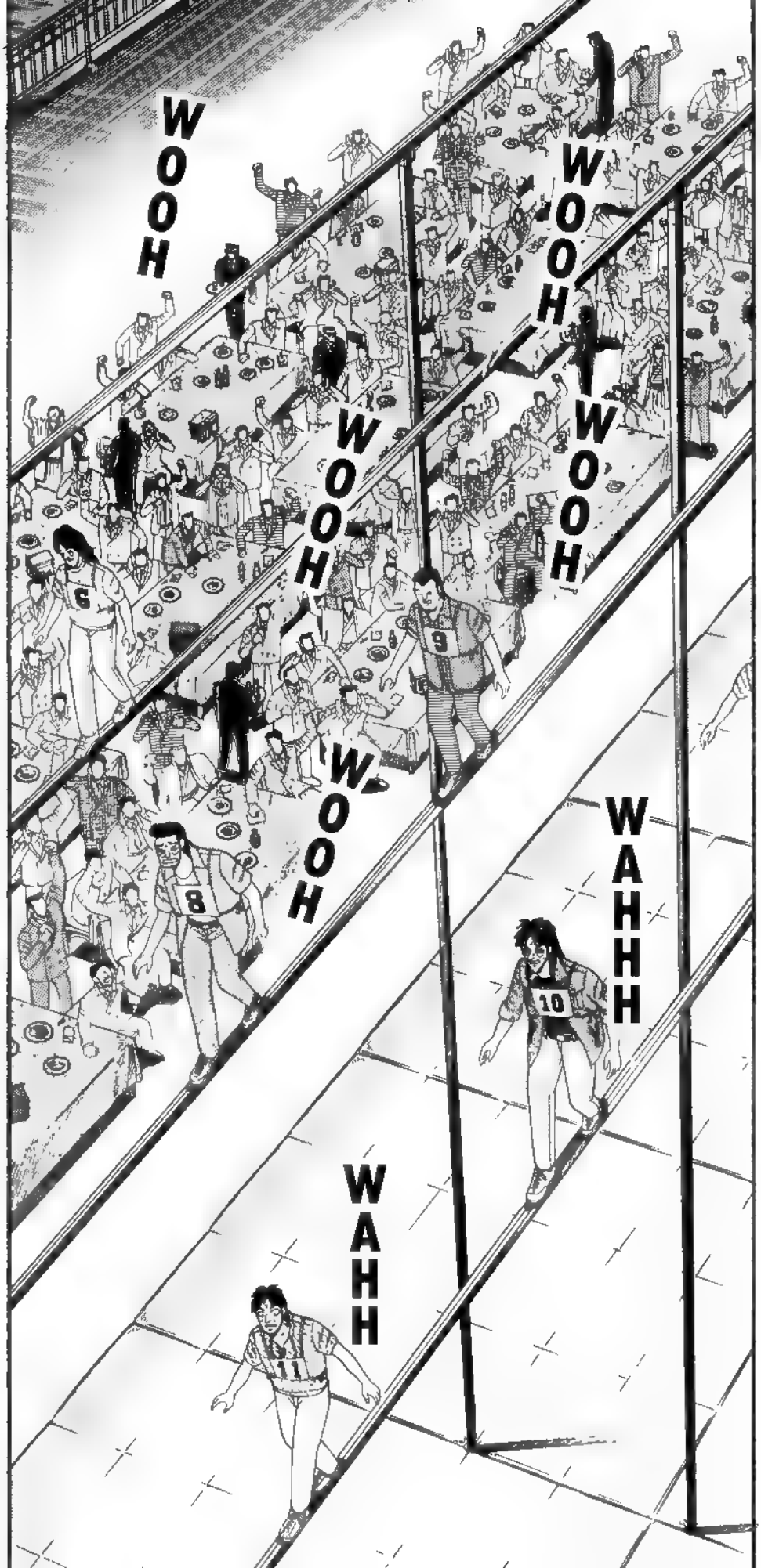
... it had surged up, independently, in each of their breasts ...
SOB

Instead ...
... as some general atmosphere of sorrow.

... to the rest ...
...that grief hadn't sprung from one person, to be transmitted ...

...
in undulating waves of desolation.
SOB SOB
That grief was not Kaiji's alone.
This strange new emotion ...
... had thrown them all into confusion
Push in order to survive.
In the heart of the brawl ...
... no on could understand why...
Why the tears were flowing ...

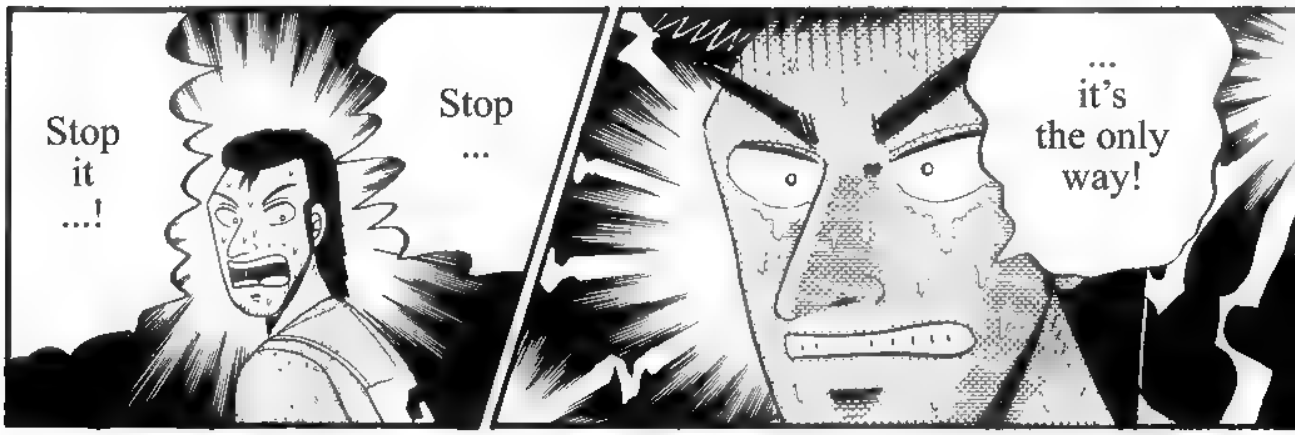
SOB
This sadness ...
A strange... unfathomable ...
... indecipherable emotion ...
For instance ...
... faced with the same situation, to kill in order to survive ...
... is it likely that animals feel sorrow?
It's difficult to imagine the lion...
... crying after it kills the zebra.



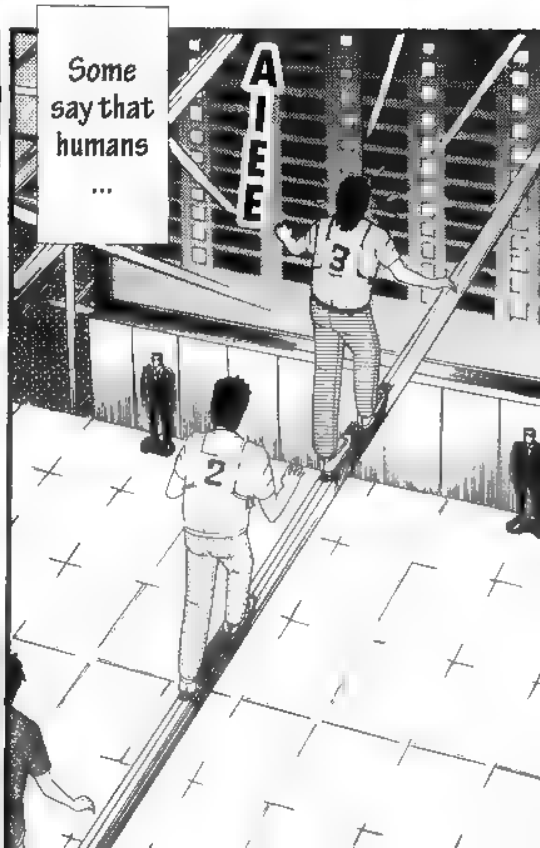
Was it something they only felt... because they were human?

... capable of remorse, and guilt.
WAHHH
Humans, perhaps, are the only animals ...
WOOH
This hesitation ...
... the men faltered.
... to push in order to survive. Even then ...
Even with their existence on the line ...
Get back ...!
Get ...
Where did it come from ...?
Their sorrow and despair ...
Where did it come from ...?
WOOH
WOOH

... but ...
I'm sorry ...
SOB
SOB SOB
Get away ...!
Stop it ...!


Stop it ...!
Stop ...
... it's the only way!

Aieee...! Aieee...!
... lead a double existence, as both animals and gods.

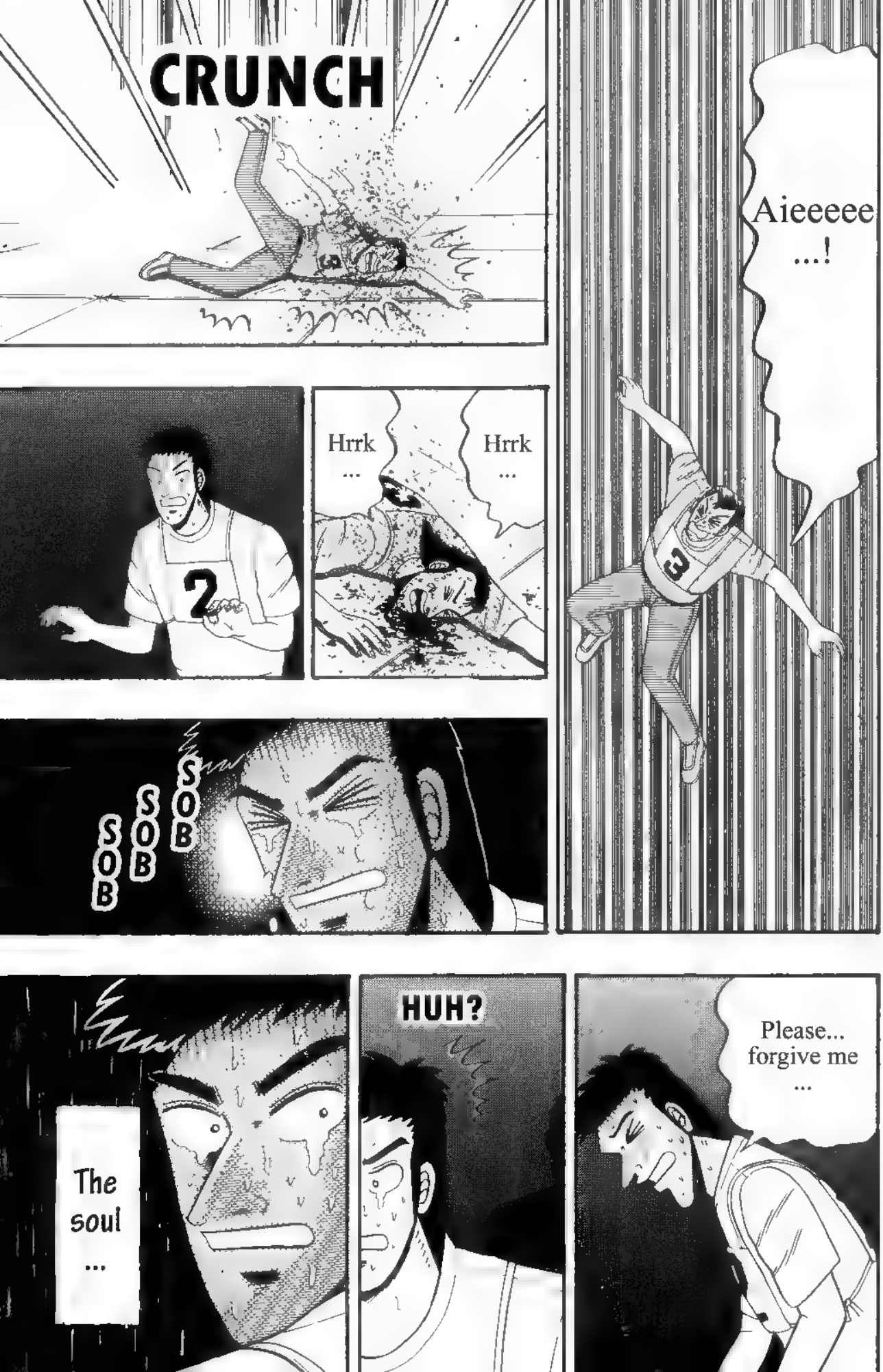

Some say that humans ...
AIEE
3
2

However, waiting on the animal side ...
Aiee...!

The biological desires ...
...the imperative to become the alpha, the leader of the pack...
... were hunger... arousal...
... of that equilibrium ...
...is overwhelming and irrefutable, motivating our every action.
At times, it seems that desire ...
...of a living creature...the desire to always rise closer to the top.
... another voice inside of us ...
... though small, it is there ...
However ...
...to help... those before us ...
The demand ...
... surpassing even the biological limitations of our flesh...

The demand that we help our fellow man ...!

Aiee ...!
Wahh ...!
THUD
Forgive me ...!


CRUNCH
Aieeeee ...!
Hrrk ...
Hrrk ...
SOB
SOB
SOB
HUH?
Please... forgive me ...
The soul ...

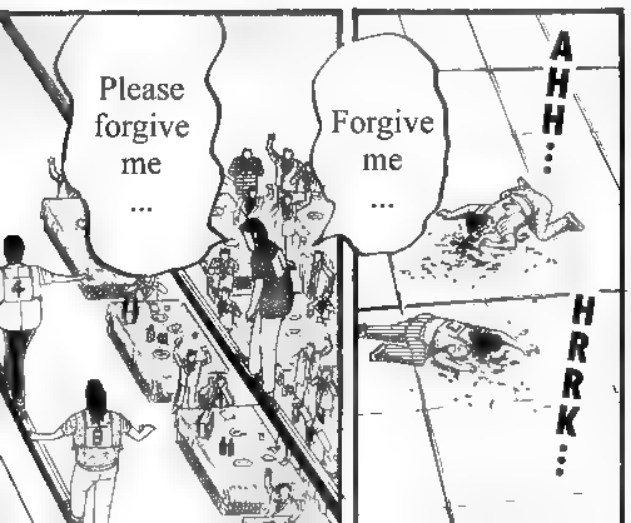
Eeek ...!
Eeek ...!
Eeek ...!
The voice of the divine self ...!

Wah ...!
... easy enough ...
Eeek ...!
...is faint, and impossibly small ...
But that voice ...

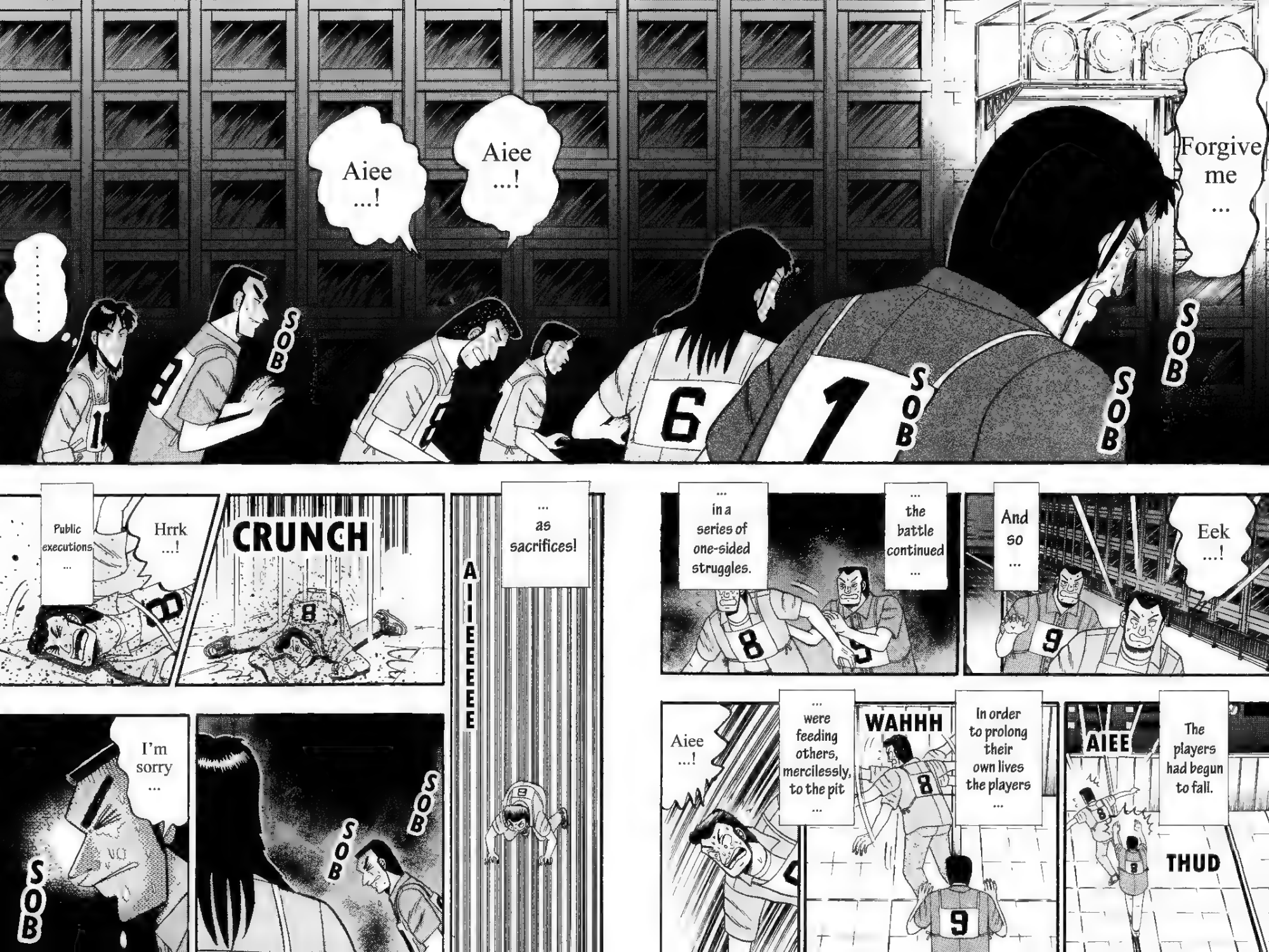
ARRGGHHH
Aiee ...!
THUD
... to smother!

KERRANCH

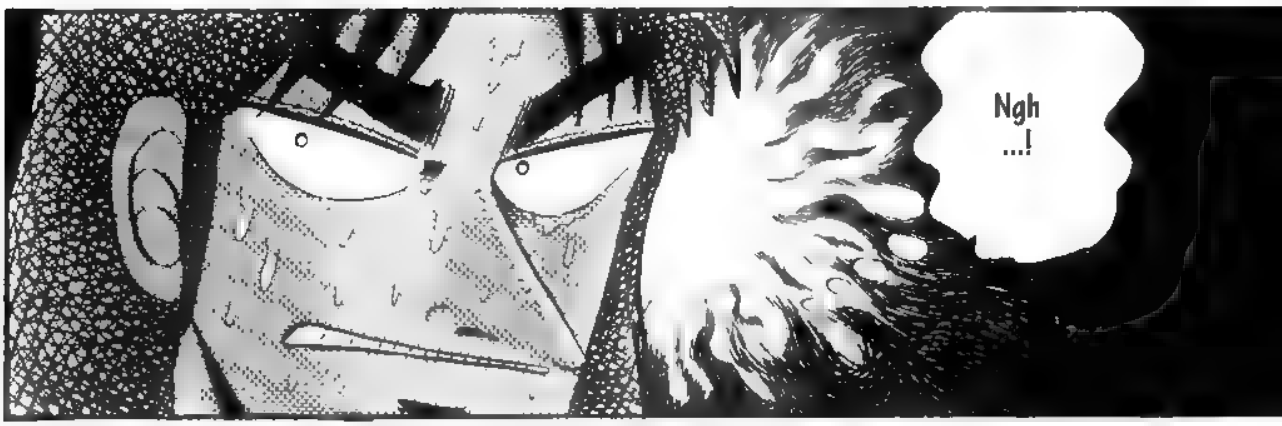
I'm sorry ...


Please forgive me ...
Forgive me ...
AHH...
HRRK...

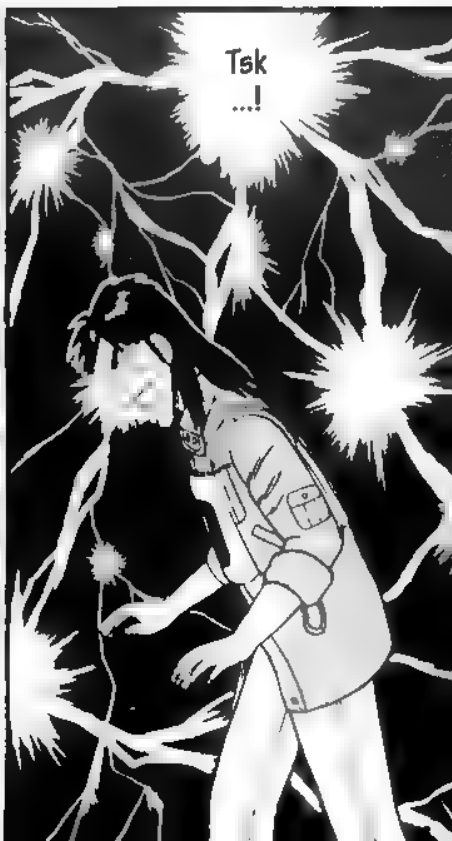
SOB SOB SOB SOB


Aiee ...!
Aiee ...!
Forgive me ...
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB
Public executions ...
Hrrk ...!
CRUNCH
... as sacrifices!
AIIEEEEEE
... in a series of one-sided struggles.
... the battle continued ...
And so ...
Eek ...!
I'm sorry ...
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB
Aiee ...!
... were feeding others, mercilessly, to the pit ...
WAHHH
In order to prolong their own lives the players ...
AIEE
The players had begun to fall.
THUD

Please forgive me ...
Forgive me ...


Ngh ...!

Who do they think they're fooling...!?
What a crock ...!


Tsk ...!

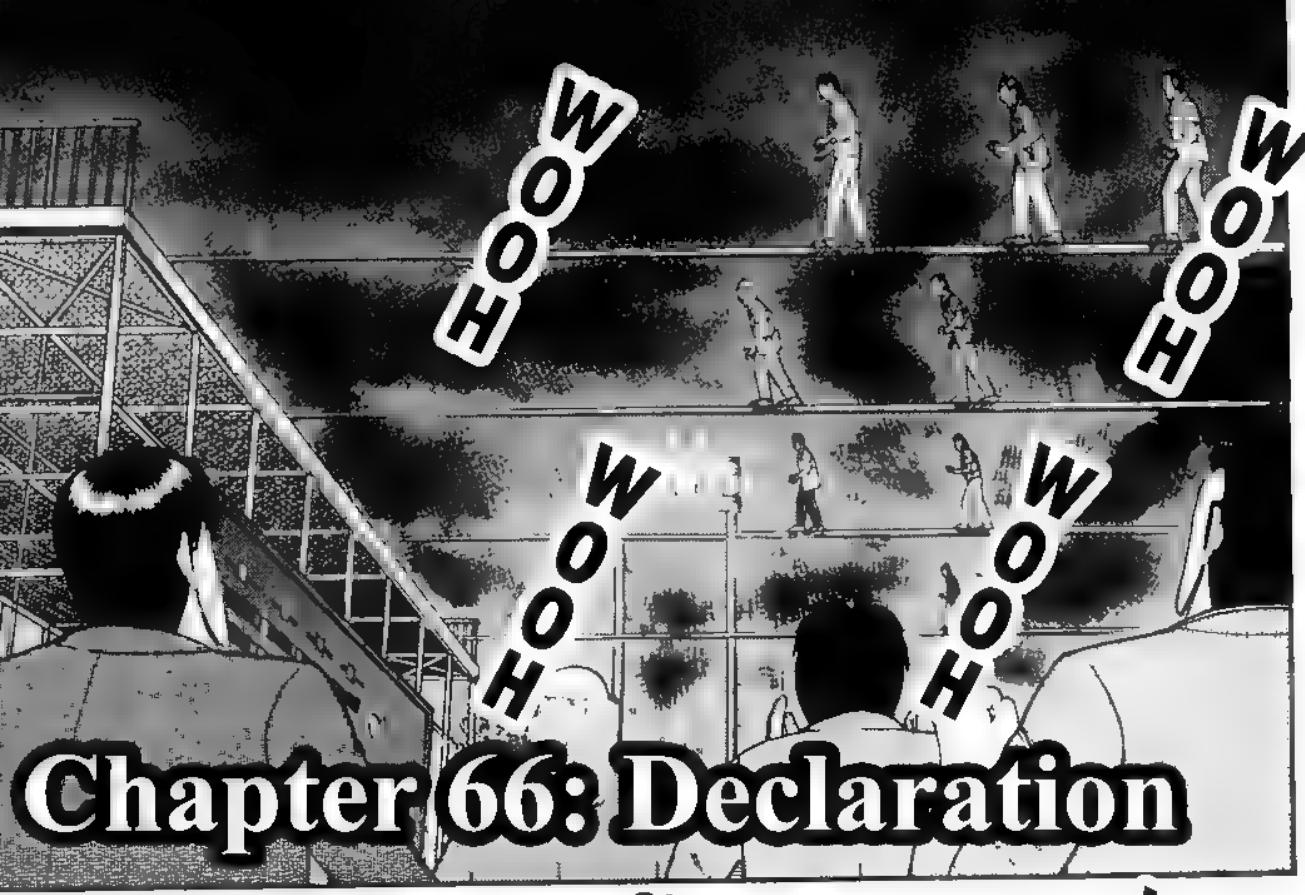
... from pushing the guys in the first place!
AHHH...

It didn't stop them
Apologizing... begging for forgiveness...

You can't have it both ways...!
It's ...
To do the thing and then say you're sorry ...
... in the first place!?
If it's so terrible then why push the guy...
What's wrong with them ...?
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE
HAH!
HAH!
HAH!
... two-faced ...
It's just ...
What's the point ...!?
I won't apologize ...
Not me ...
Plain hypocrisy ...!

I know I won't be forgiven!!!

End of Chapter 65



Chapter 66: Declaration

I'll push him down without saying a word...!
WOOOH
WOOOH
WOOOH
WOOOH
WOOOH
9
10
11

HAH...
HAH!
The same rules !!
It's push or be pushed...
This isn't a matter of forgiveness...
Just the way of the world...!
It's fundamental...
...as in life.

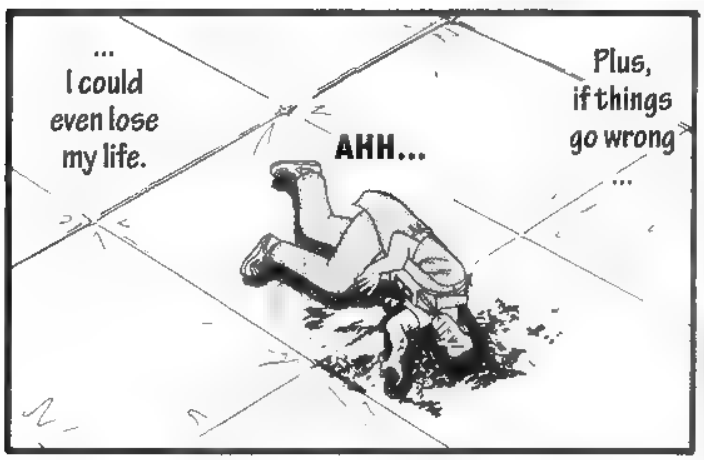
...positions...
and human relationships
...
It's all the same ...!
...
connections and opportunities
...
Money... things...
They'll take it right from beneath your fingertips ...!
...
and you lose.
You snooze ...
...
is up for grabs.
As long as there's profit in it, everything in this world ...
...
and no gain!
All loss ...

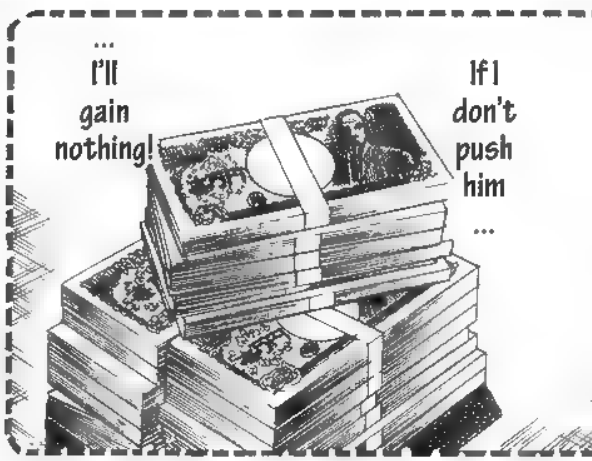
That's why ...
With nothing to show for it ...!
Before you know it you're left with empty hands ...!
Otherwise I'll be left with nothing ...
I've got to make the first move ...
...to come out on top!
... everyone is so frantic ...
Otherwise I'll be squeezed out...
I've gotta do it ...
It's time to attack ...!
... I'll lose everything.
If I sit with my mouth shut, twiddling my thumbs ...

Punch
...
Take or be taken ...!
It's one or the other ...
I'll lose my place ...
38
Bully
...
...or be punched
...
Betray
...
Con or be conned
...
...or be bullied
...

In other words ...
... or be betrayed!
... or be killed!
Kill ...
... I have to push him!
That's why ...
It's just reality ...!
Those are the facts ...
There's no use fighting it.

I've got to ...!


... I could even lose my life.
AHH...
Plus, if things go wrong ...


... I'll gain nothing!
If I don't push him ...

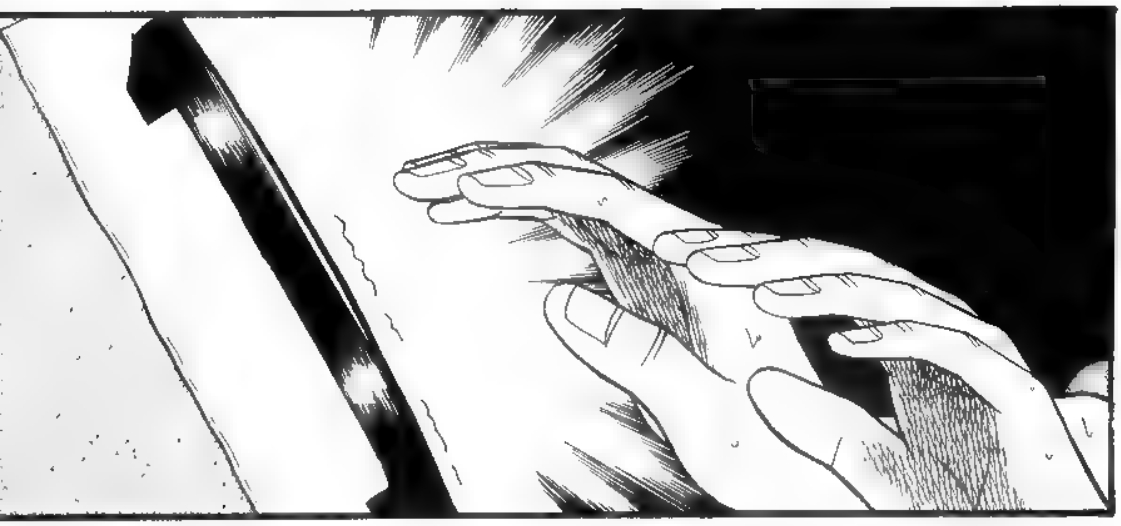
I have to ...!
I'm gonna do it ...!

... for my own sake!

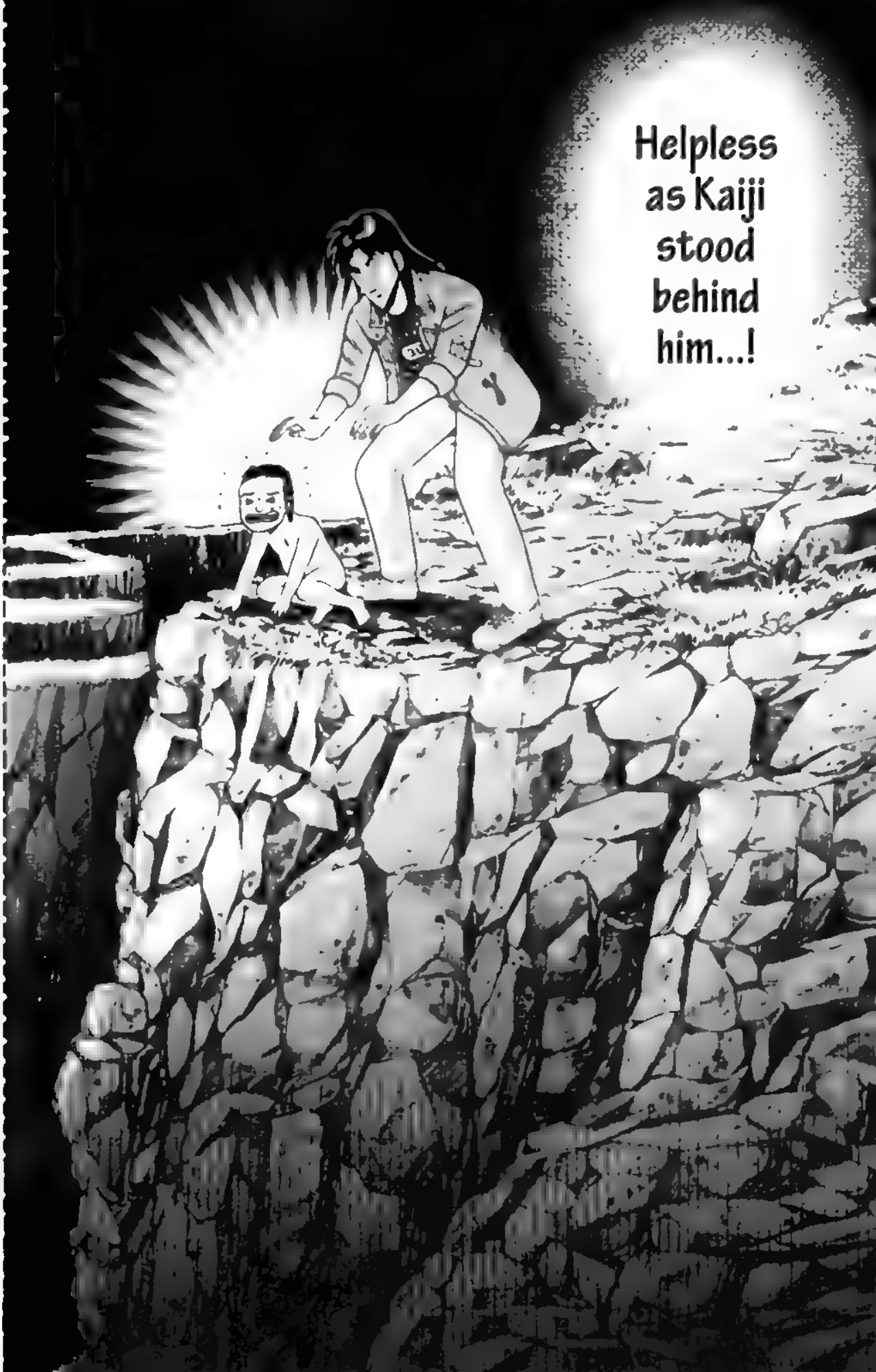
I've gotta push him ...
It's nothing to be ashamed of...!

An enemy
... is against me ...
Anyone who gets in my way...
He's my enemy ...!
An enemy ...!
... on the opponent in front ...
... Kaiji began to gain once more ...
... as the race neared its end ...
And so ...
My enemy ...!

... on his defenseless back!
That back ...
Here it goes ...!
Ngh !
... it would hardly even be necessary ...
Barely able to keep his balance ...
... unable to stop its trembling and flickering.
... was like a lamp before a storm ...
10



He would go down easy ...!

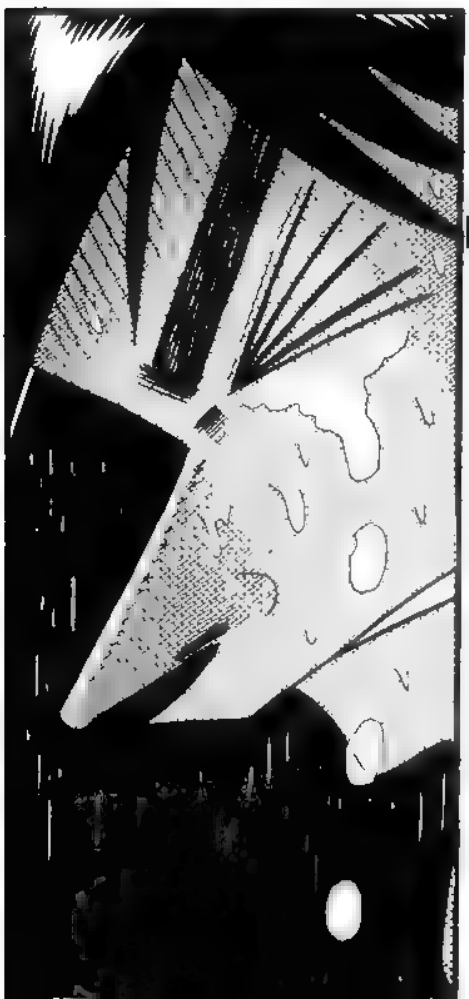

Helpless as Kaiji stood behind him...!

Like a mewling infant, on the edge of the abyss ...!

SOB

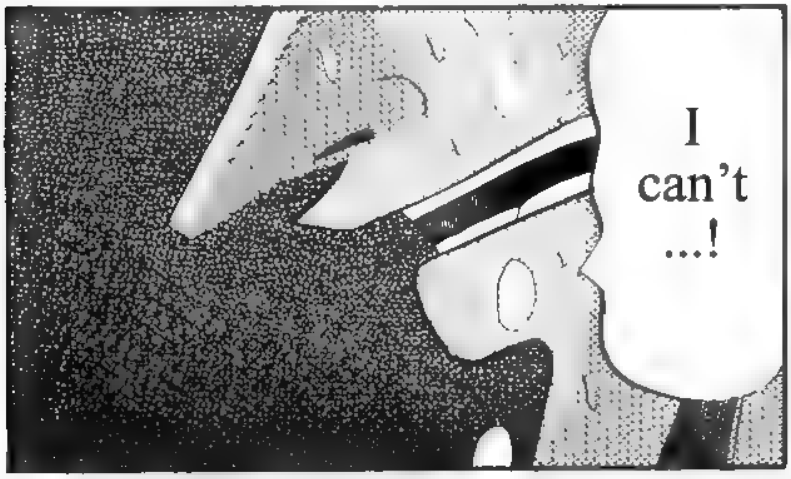
Ngh ...!

SOB
SOB
SOB

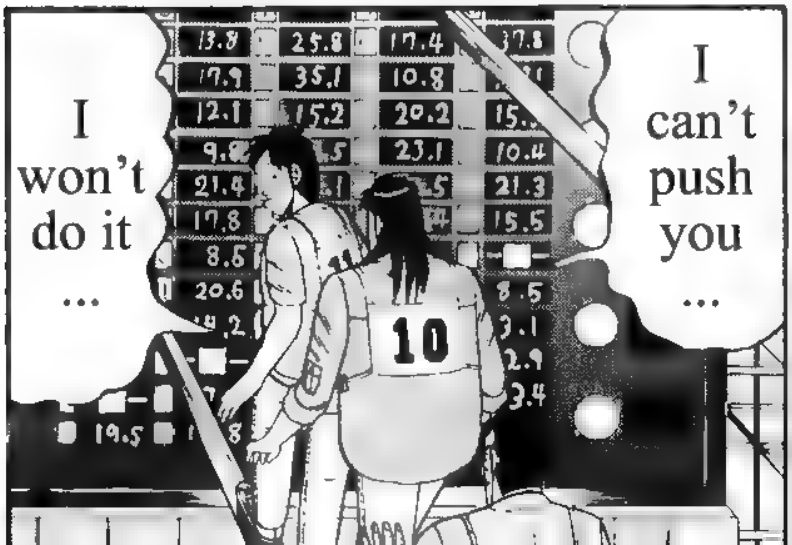


No... it's push or be pushed ...

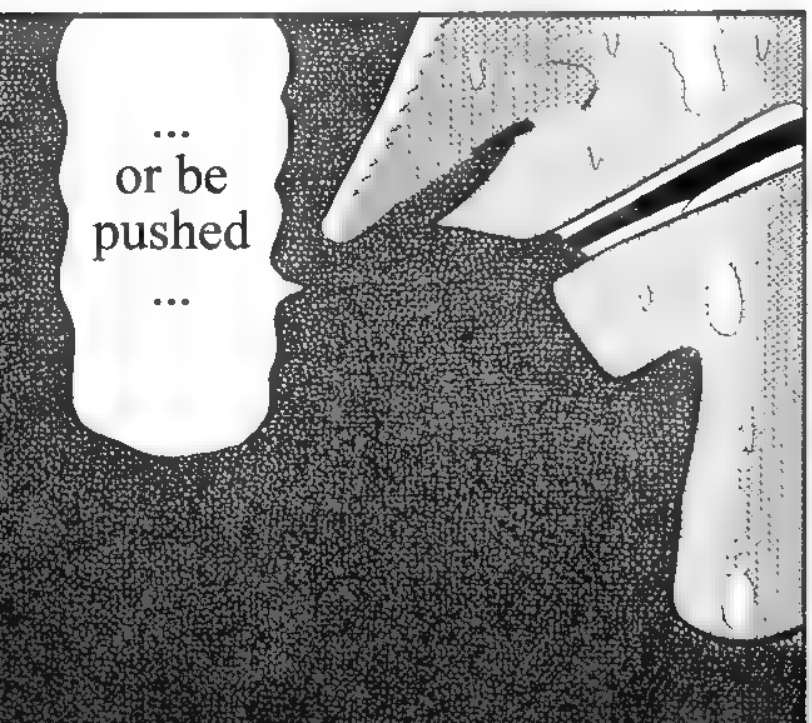
Push or be pushed ...
Push or be pushed ...
SOB
Push or be pushed ...!
Huh ...?
But ...
SOB SOB
.....


I
can't
...!

SOB
SOB


I
won't
do it
...
I
can't
push
you
...
10

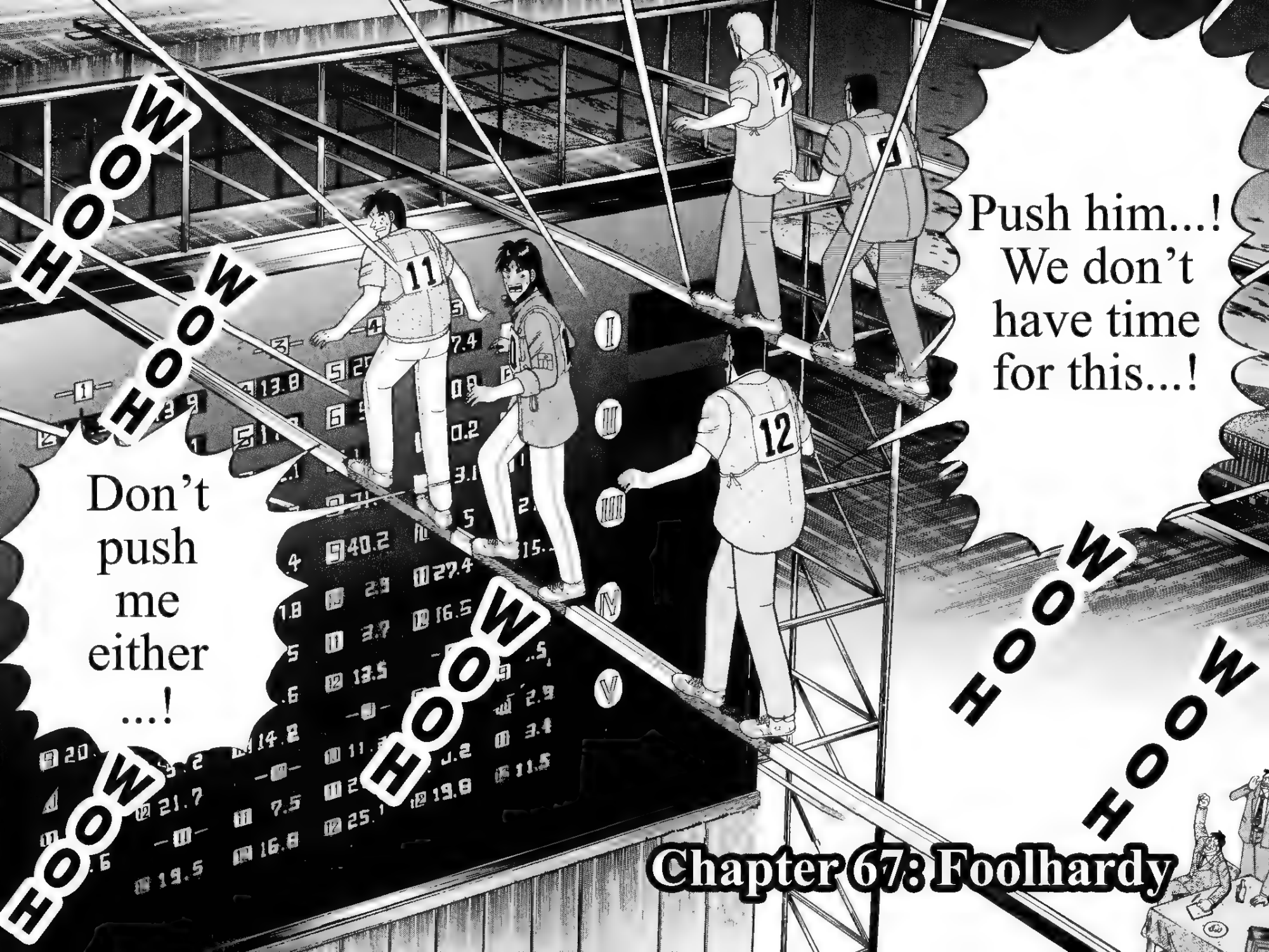
I won't push you ...!
10
11


... or be pushed ...

I don't care if it's push ...

I won't push you ...!
I won't do it ...!
SOB
SOB
10
SOB
End of Chapter 66

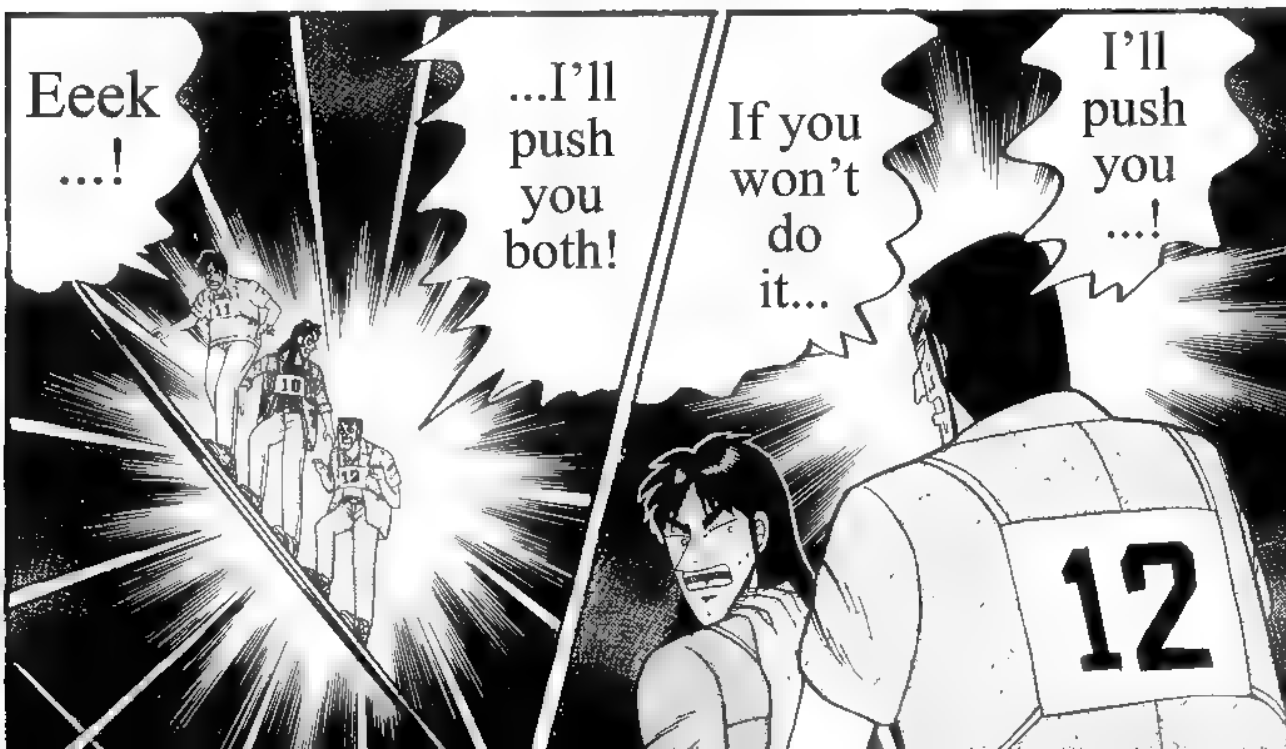
I won't do it ...!
SOB
.....
SOB
SOB
.....
I won't push you ...!
You moron ...!
You ...


HOOOW
HOOOW
Don't push me either ...!
Push him...! We don't have time for this...!
HOOOW
HOOOW
HOOOW
Chapter 67: Foolhardy

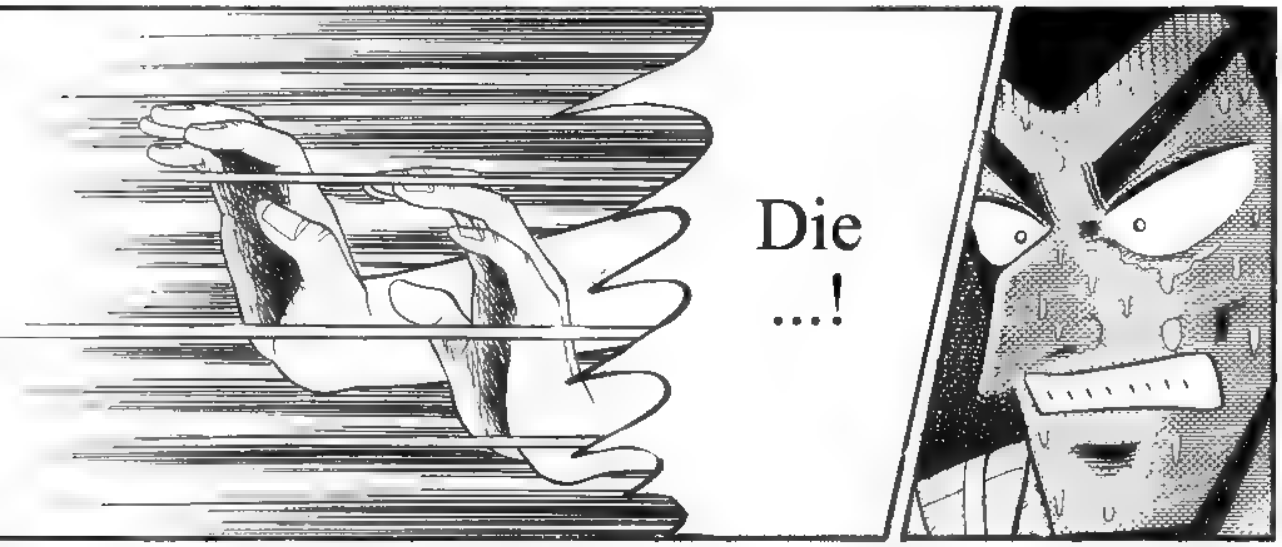
You don't wanna push anyone anymore than I do...
You don't, right ...!?
You moron ...!
Then don't ...!
You ...
SHUFFLE
Who cares how we feel...!
WOOH
WOOH
11
12

...
I've got no choice!
Even if I don't like it ...
12
Get out of my way ...!
I can still make it ...!
I'm almost there ...
I need it ...
Get out of my way ...!
The goal's right there ...!

Get out of my way...!
I need the money ...!
SOB
SOB
SOB
Ahhh ...!


Eeek ...!
...I'll push you both!
If you won't do it...
I'll push you ...!
12

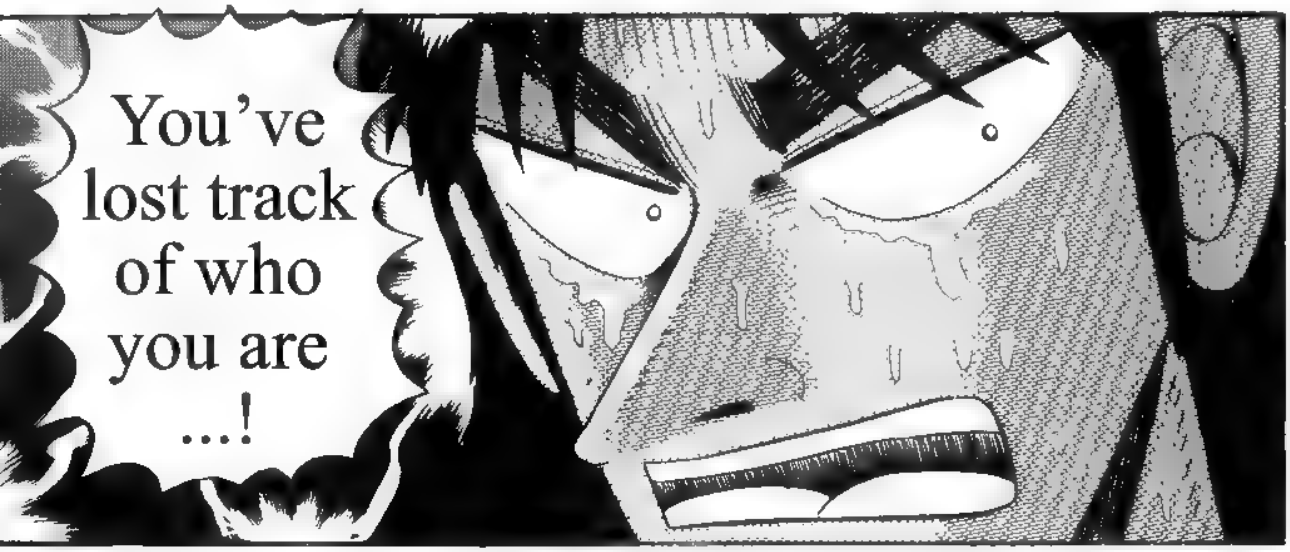
D
...

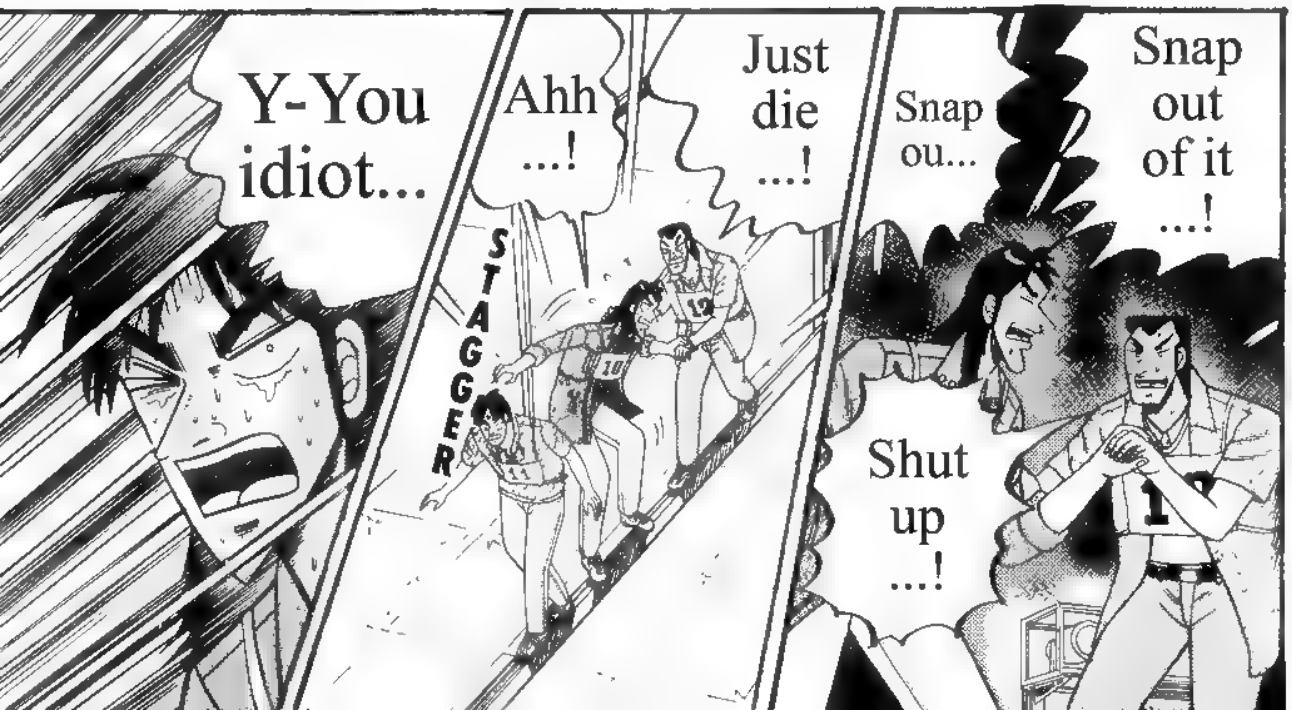

Die
...!

Ahh
...!

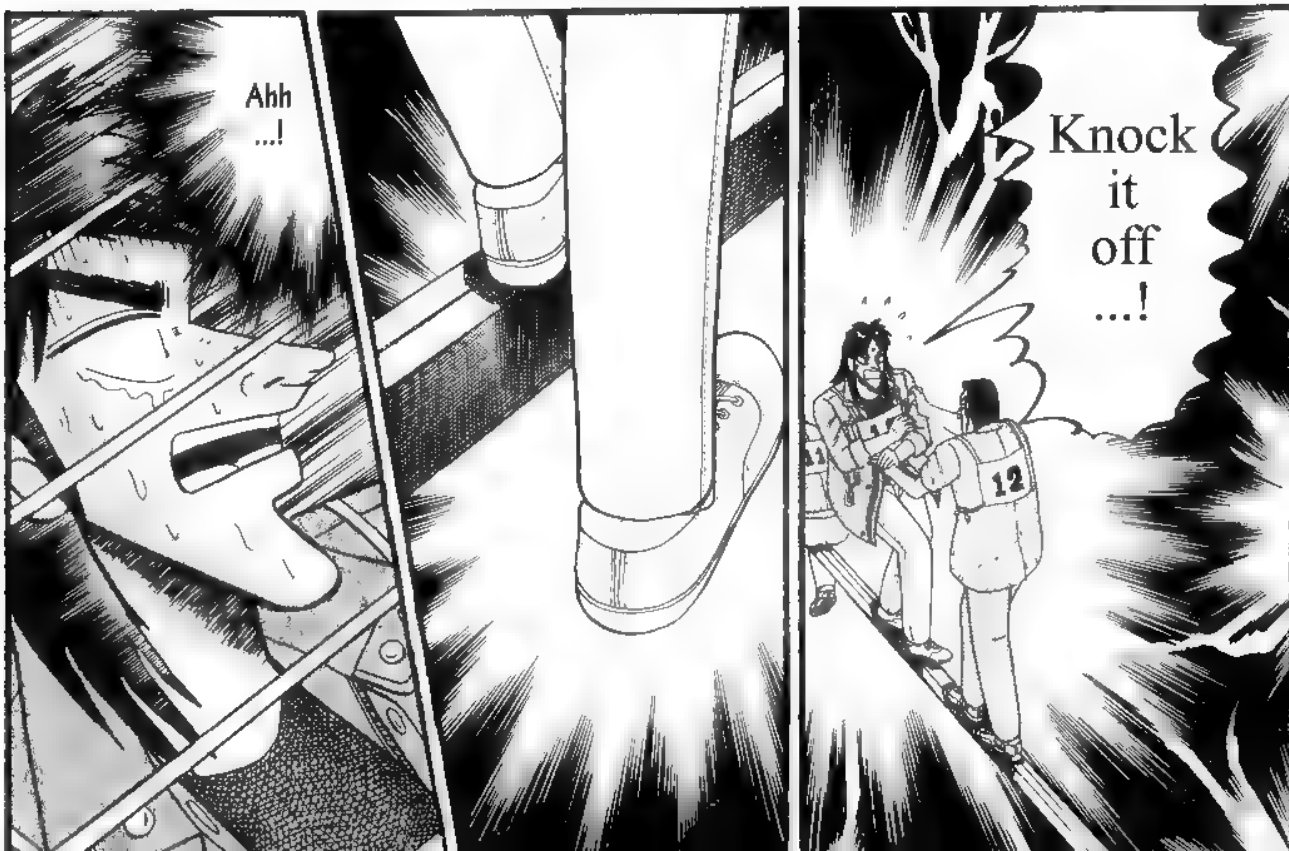
GRAB
Ahh ...!
10
Ngh ...!
Don't you remember ...!?

This is plain madness ...!
Look at yourself, you've gone half crazy...!
You were right ...
Throwing people to the ground like this is madness ...!
Don't you remember what you said before ...!?


You've lost track of who you are ...!

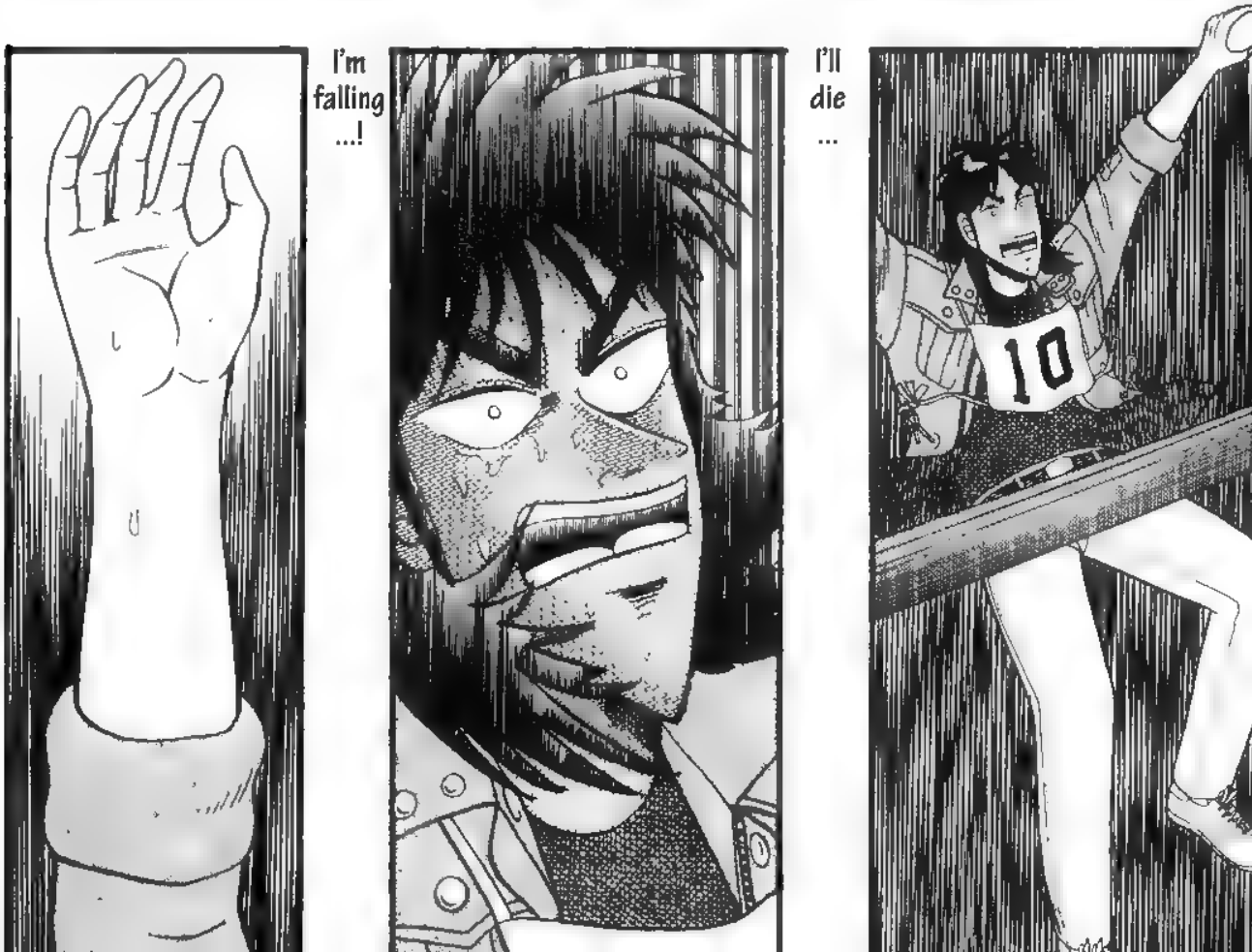

Y-You idiot...
Ahh ...!
Just die ...!
STAGGER
Snap ou...
Snap out of it ...!
Shut up ...!

FWUMP
Eeek ...!
Eeek ...!
WHACK
St ...
YANK
Stop it ...!


Ahh ...!
Knock it off ...!

No ...
No way ...!
10
12
Aghh ...!

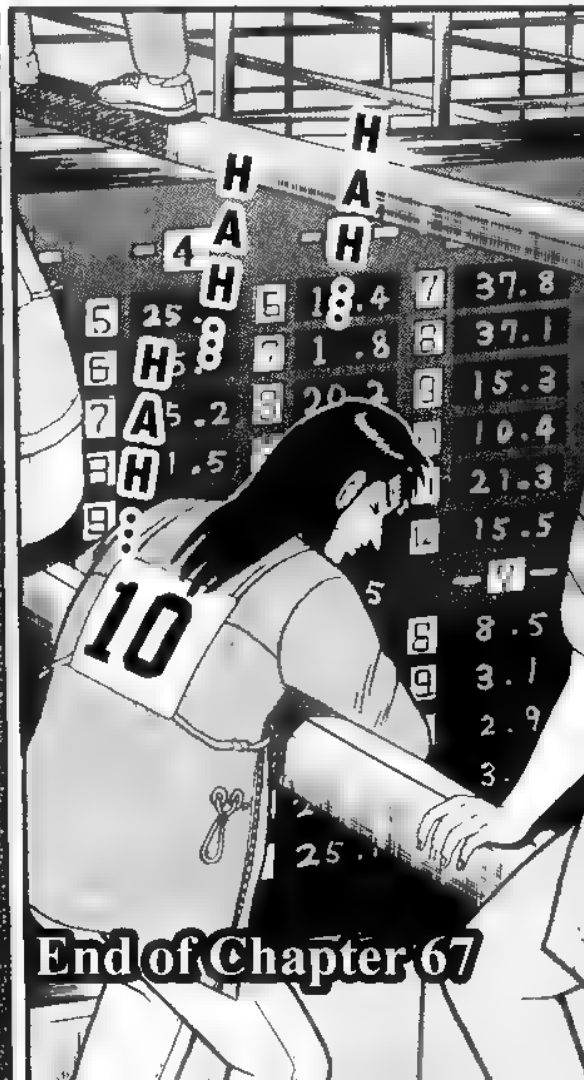
Aiee ...!
11


I'm falling ...!
I'll die ...
10

BWAHAHAHA
Ahh
...
11
Huh
...!?
Ahh
...
11

Ngh
...!

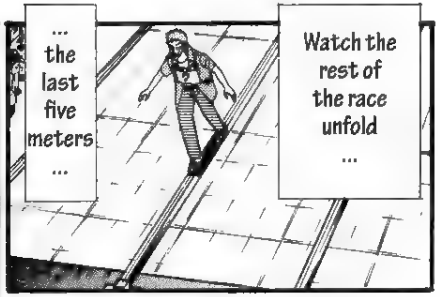
.....
No ...!
Ahh ...!
Man ...!
I'm disqualified now...!
It's over... it's all over...!
You lousy jerk...!
.....
Wahh ...
Tsk...
Hrrkk ...

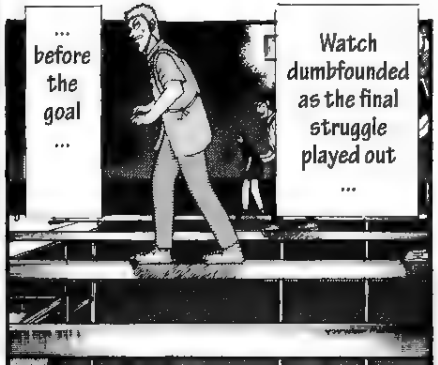

HAHAHAH

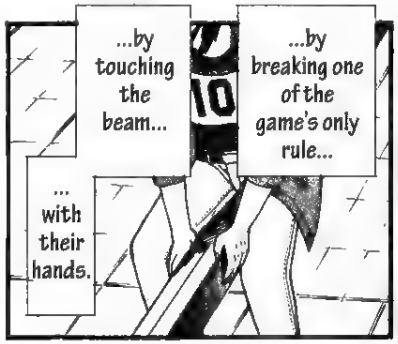
Man ...!
HOOW
HOOW
HOOW
HOOW
HAH...
HAH...
Man ...!
Man ...!
...Kaiji's entire group was eliminated.
... nearly at the goal ...
And so ...
HAH...
.....

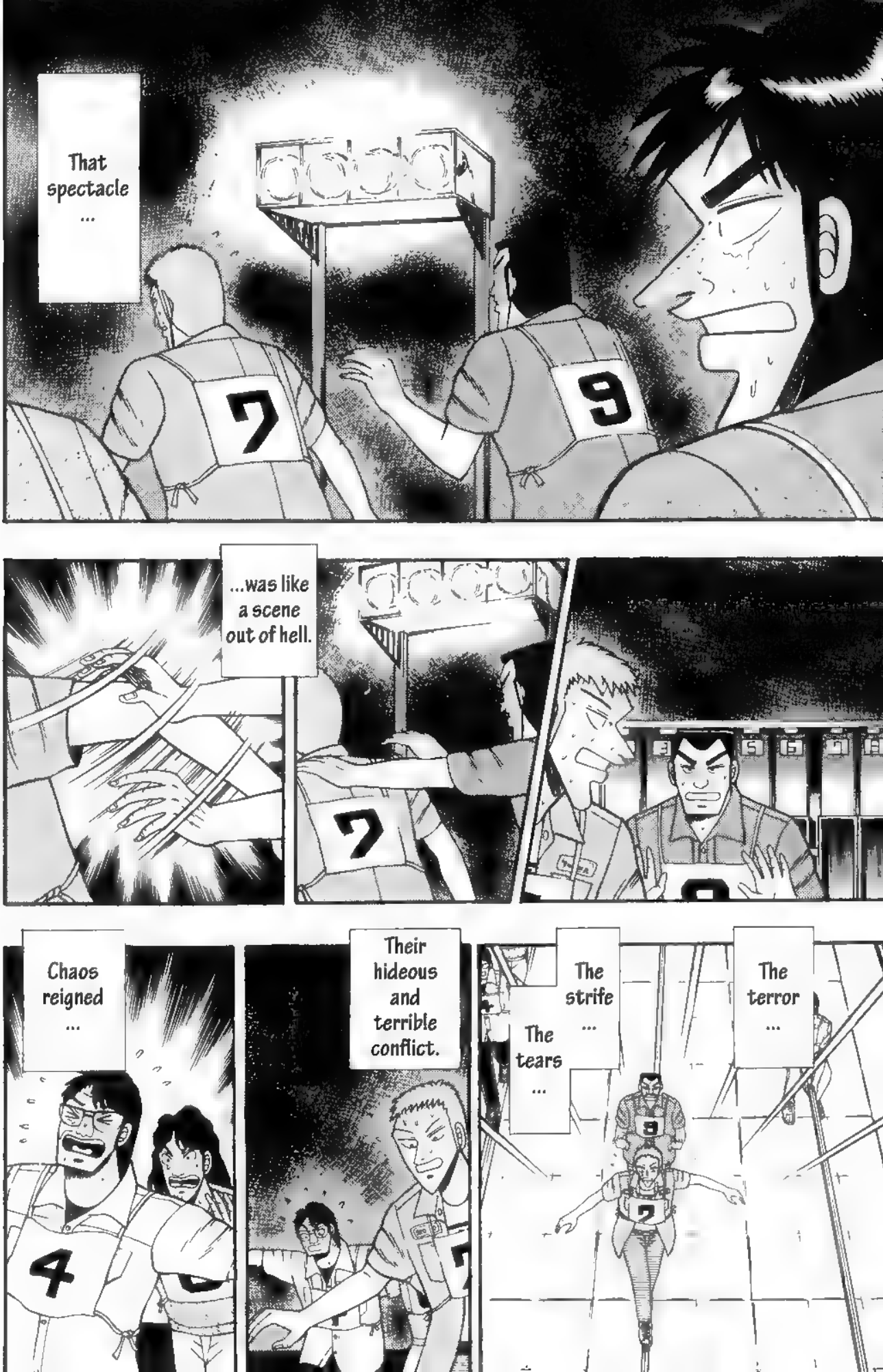
Chapter 68: Lights Out

They could no longer claim the prize money...!!








That spectacle ...
...was like a scene out of hell.
Chaos reigned ...
Their hideous and terrible conflict.
The tears ...
The strife ...
The terror ...

Kaiji's group, too ...
... in the fires of hell.
...as the screams of the damned as they writhed
... terrible ...
:screaming:
Beset by delirium ...
... had been engulfed in the same chaos...
... only minutes before ...
...!
.....
... unable to fight.
... and in tears ...
10
... the one to prevail in this macabre race...
In the end ...
9

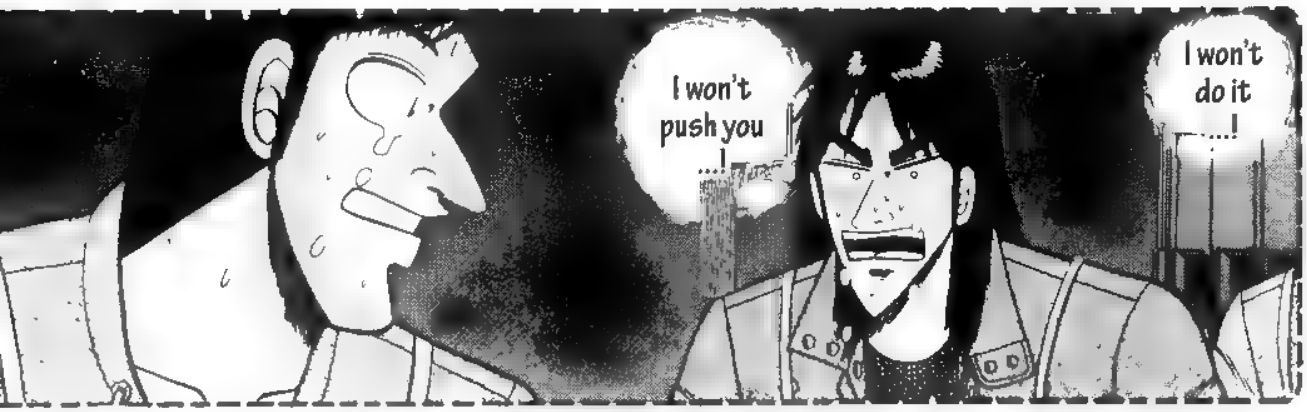
...was the first to have taken and kept the lead...
...
Sahara!
Whoooooo...!
ROLL
Whoo ...!
...he was able to turn their squabbling to his advantage and seize his chance...
...fell, one by one...
While those in front ...
... came up from behind ...
Second place ...

HAH...
HAH...
HAH...
CLOMP
SOB
SOB
SOB
It was Ishida ...!
...or had fallen off.
The rest had either been disqualified ...
Ahhh...
Ohhhh...
...were also the only two to successfully finish.
...of their first race, were that the two to arrive first and claim the prize money...
The results ...

After the race ...
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...
.....
There was no time to let them stand around.
Kaiji and the rest ...
The next race was already set to begin in less than 10 minutes.
...Kaiji and the rest were taken below.
...and given no time to rest ...
...were told to wait in this cold sparse room...
Kaiji and the others...
...to the downstairs storage room where they had started.
...were quickly ushered away...
CREAK

The winners and the losers ...
I did it ...!
Yes ...!
Yes ...!
...until all of the races were over.
Man ...!
Man ...!
Man ...!
... were left to wait together.
Man ...!
...those who had made their score and those who hadn't...
This sucks ...!

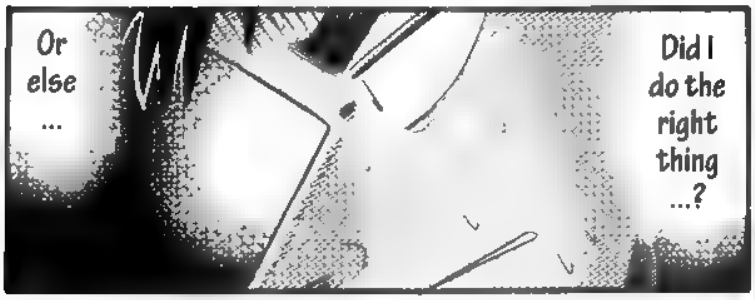
10


I won't push you ...!
I won't do it ...!

Don't do it ...!

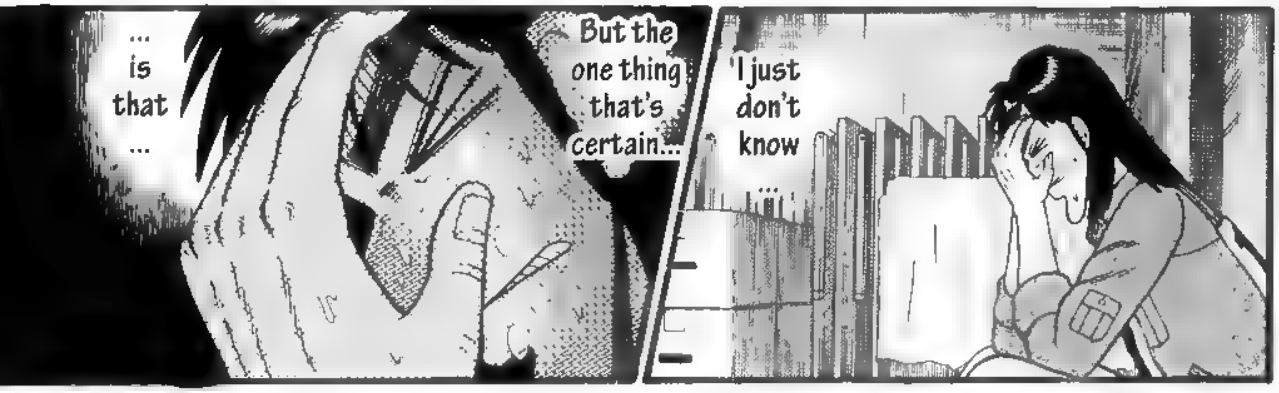
Don't push me...!

Don't push me either ...!
12



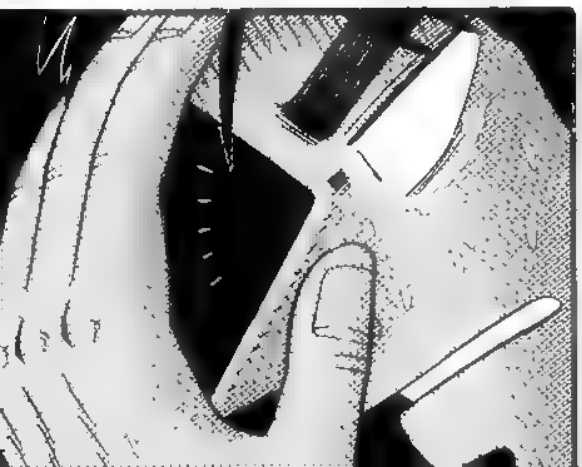
Did I ...

I don't know ...
Was I courageous...?
Was I being afraid ...?


... is that ...
But the one thing that's certain...
I just don't know ...

I ruined my chances all over again...!
I gained nothing at all...

...I didn't gain anything by doing it...



I did it again...

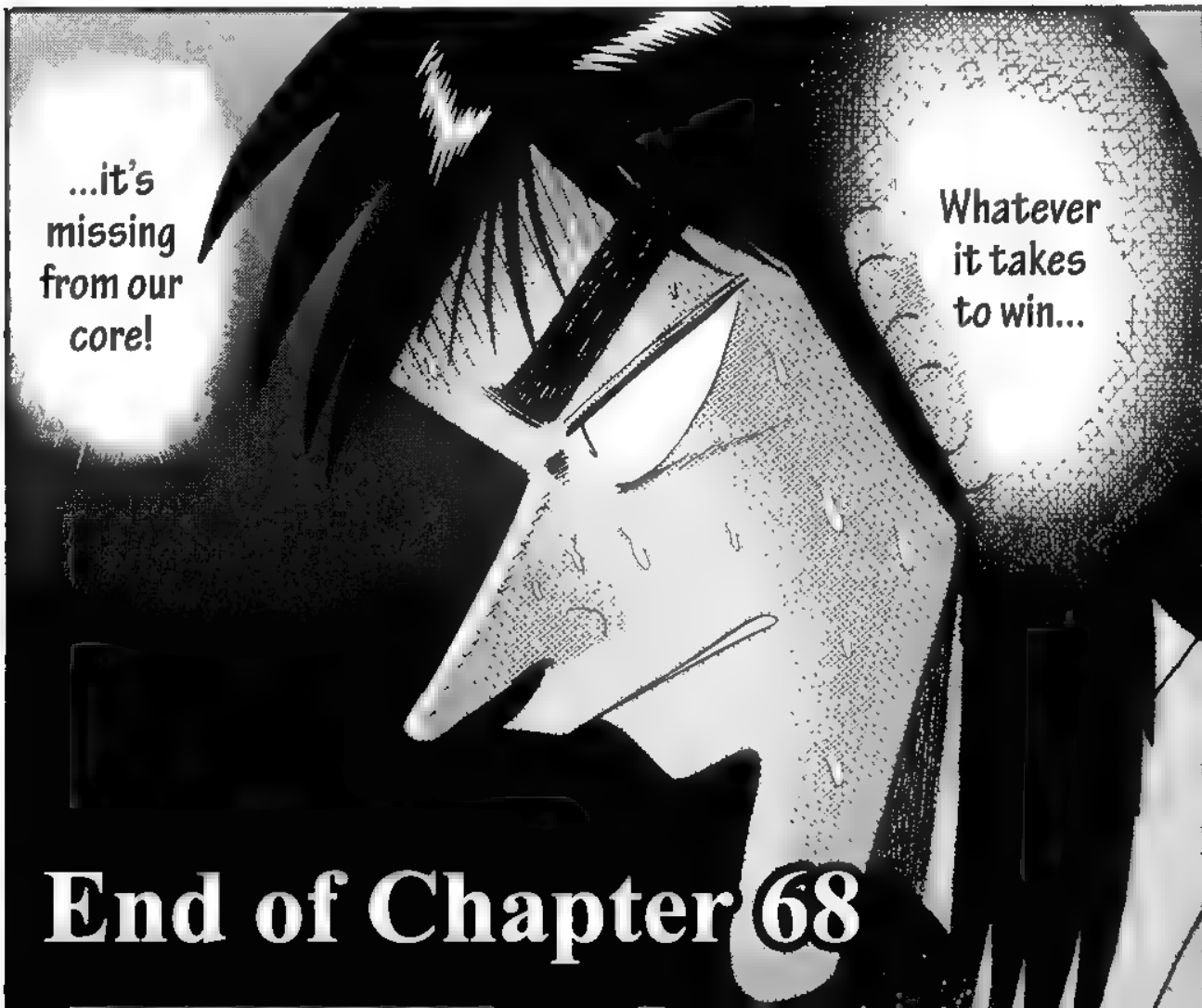
Sahara was probably too far ahead...
A little more and you could've taken second.
...but you could've beaten Ishida.
Too bad, kid ...
Hmph ...
Ahh ...!

If you had pushed the guy ...!
No question about it...
.....
Ahh ...!
Beating that geezer would've been a piece of cake.
But nope ...
If you had just given those two a good thump...
...you could've taken second.
You too ...
Hehe ...
12
12

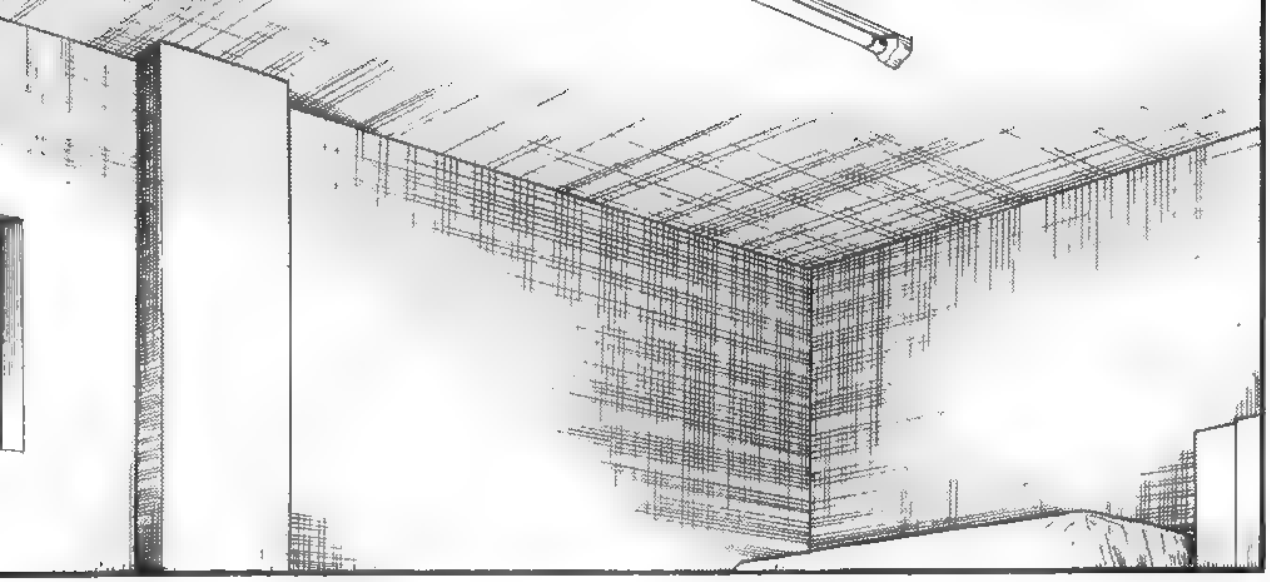
Ahh ...
Guess it just wasn't your lucky day...
You got all tangled up with Kaiji instead...
PAT
Hmph
Thank you ...!
...the next time we run a game.
I'll give you another chance...
But hey, don't let it get to you.
That's wrong ...
.....

...he hesitated!
When we were on that bridge...
I was there...
It wasn't luck...
He didn't notice...
The truth is he just didn't notice...
...his hands stopped for a moment.
Just as he was about to push me...
...his own soft-heartedness.

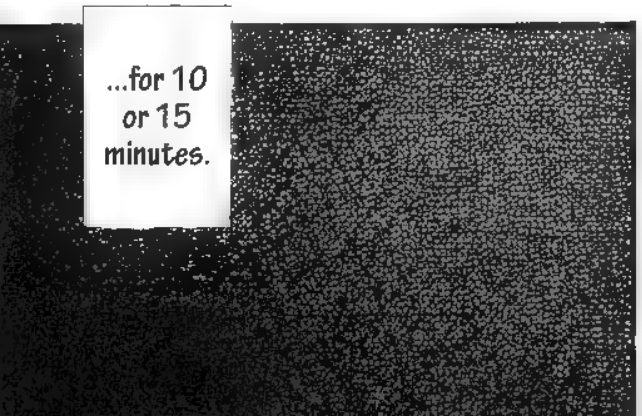
We're missing something...!

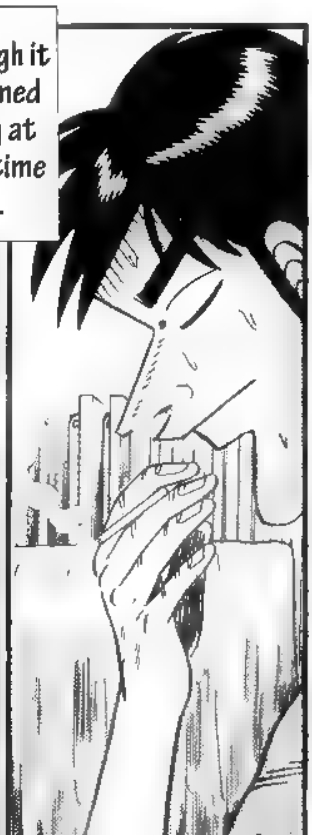


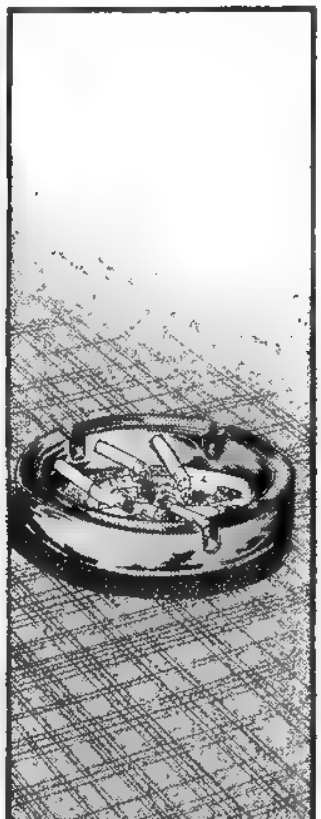
End of Chapter 68



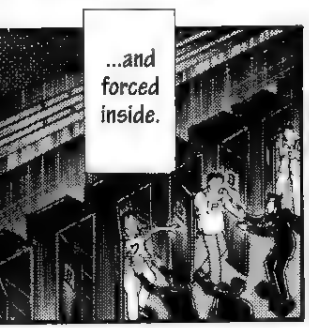
...
they were actually only on those bridges...

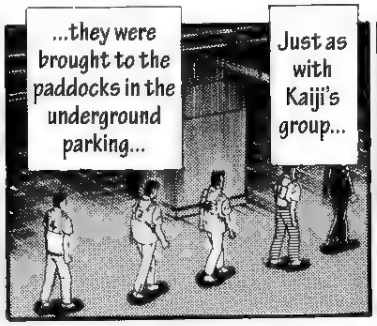

...for 10 or 15 minutes.

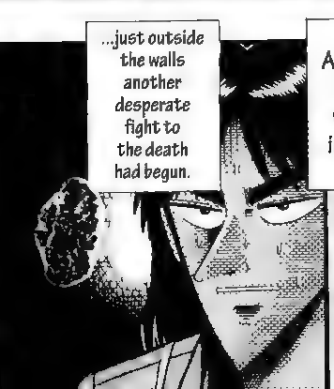

Though it seemed long at the time ...

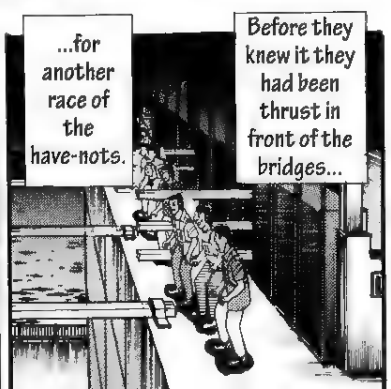


Chapter 69: Promises



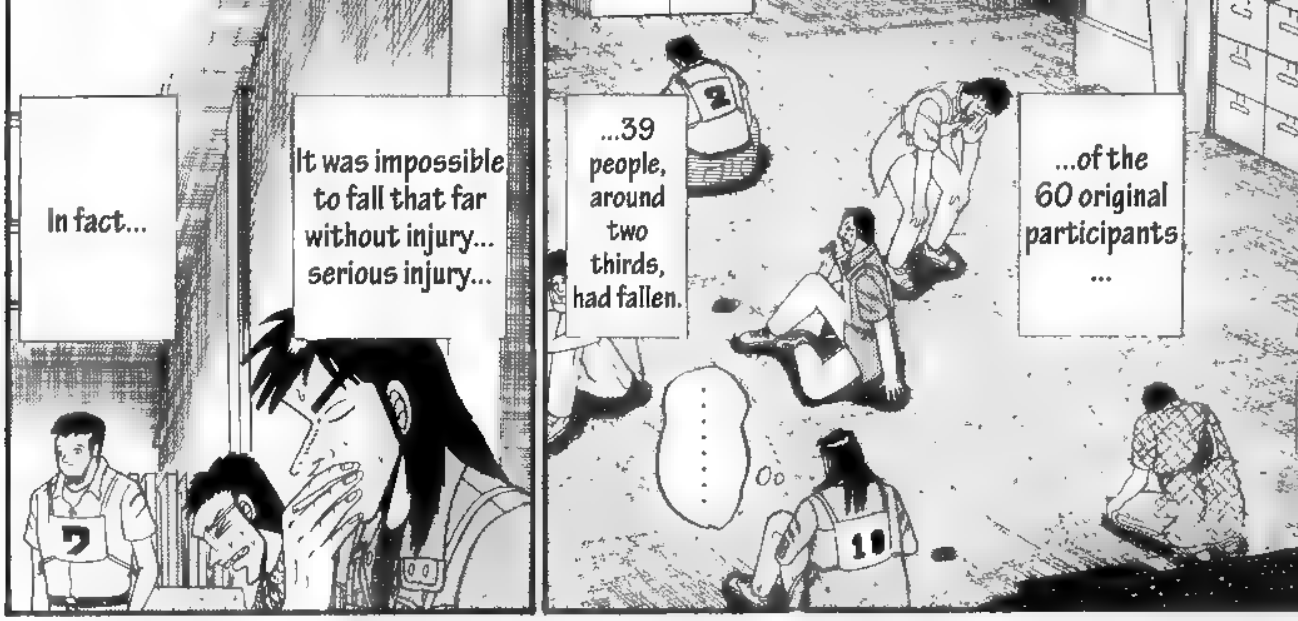






...and two in elation.
Four in disappointment ...
...six more players joined them.
Another 10 minutes later...
.....
The six not returning had fallen below.
Only five survived from the third race...
...of the players as they returned told Kaiji all that he needed to know.
Even without seeing the race, a look at the faces...
...while six were able to survive.
Half of the players had fallen in the second race ...

...fifth race...
But in the final...
...and four from the fourth...
ざわ...
10
5
11
Something unusual had happened ...
...for only one returned ...
ざわ‥ ざわ‥
2
8
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
SLUMP
HA...
...and his face a ghastly white.
One player, his number torn in shreds...
TREMBLE
10
6
In the end ...
.....


In fact...
It was impossible to fall that far without injury... serious injury...
...39 people, around two thirds, had fallen.
...of the 60 original participants ...

Seen in that light...
...some of them were likely dead.

Even if they had managed to gain nothing...
...had been lucky, perhaps.
...who returned unharmed ...
...Kaiji and the other 20 people...

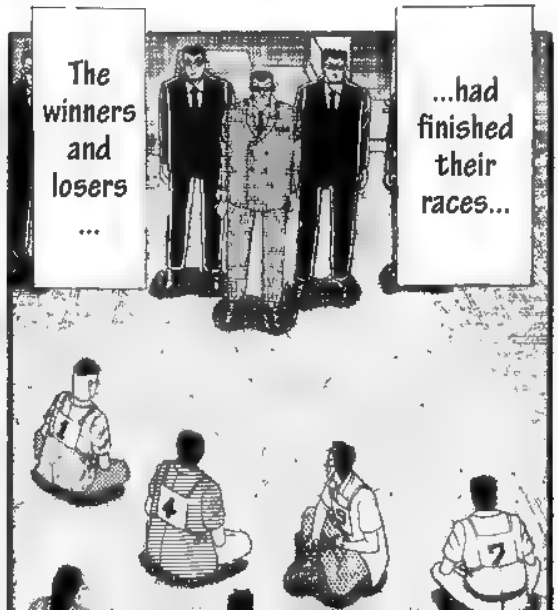
……
9
…they would at least live on!

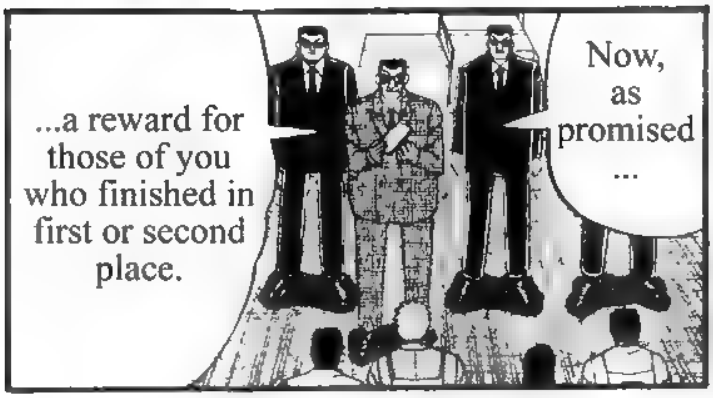
The 60 players who had assembled for the night...
11:35.
5
11

……

ざわ…
ざわ…
ざわ…
2
7
1

...had been decided.
10

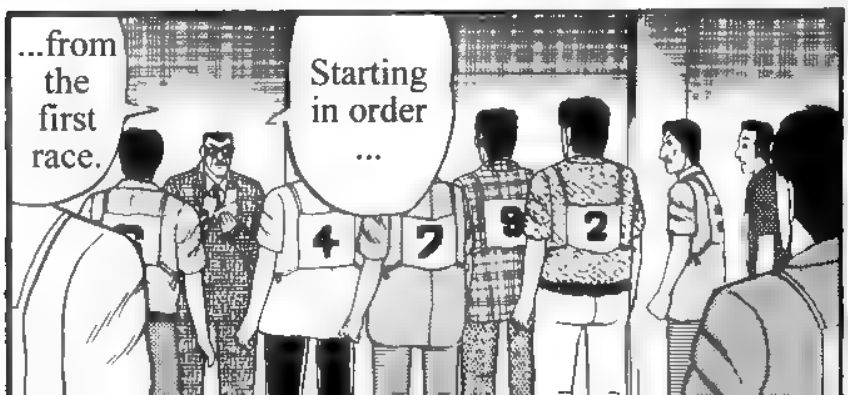

The winners and losers ...
...had finished their races...
1
4
7


...a reward for those of you who finished in first or second place.
Now, as promised ...

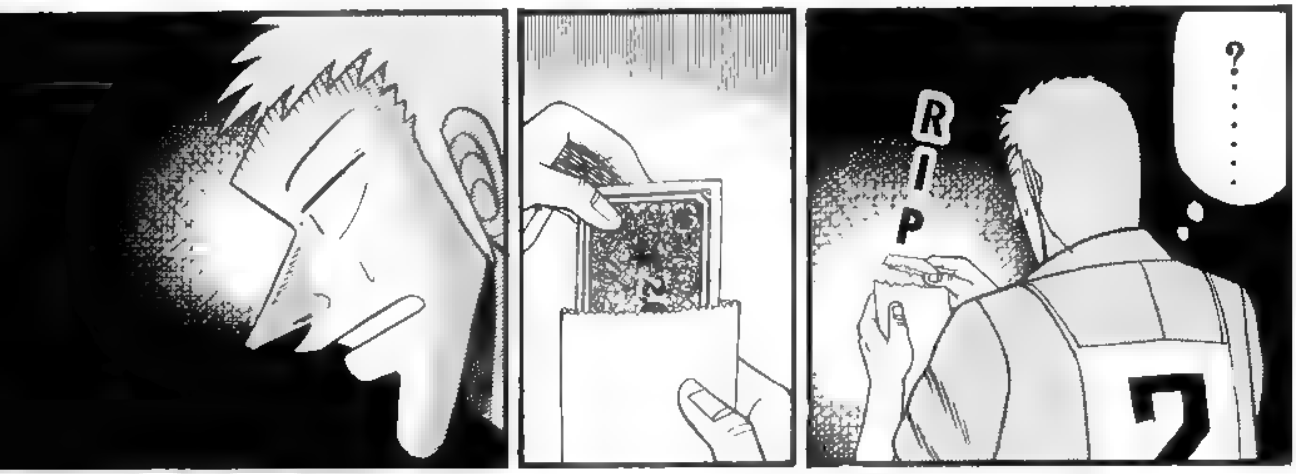
Well done, everyone...

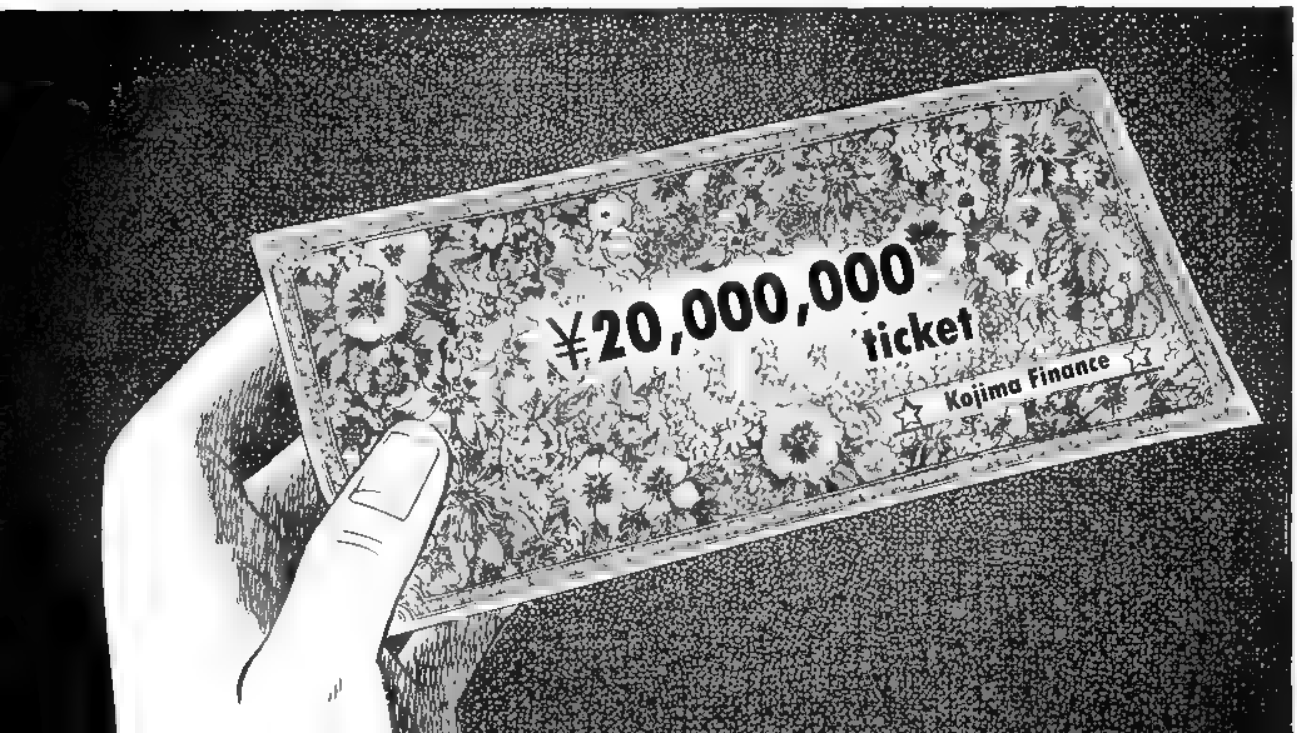
SWOOSH
RISE
7

Would the winners please step forward ...?
Alright then...
3
7


...from the first race.
Starting in order ...
4
7
8
2

Congratulations.
Congratulations
Congratulations
.....


R I P
?.....


¥20,000,000
ticket
Kojima Finance

They are tickets. For 20 or 10 mil. yen, respectively.
Just what is this supposed to be...!?

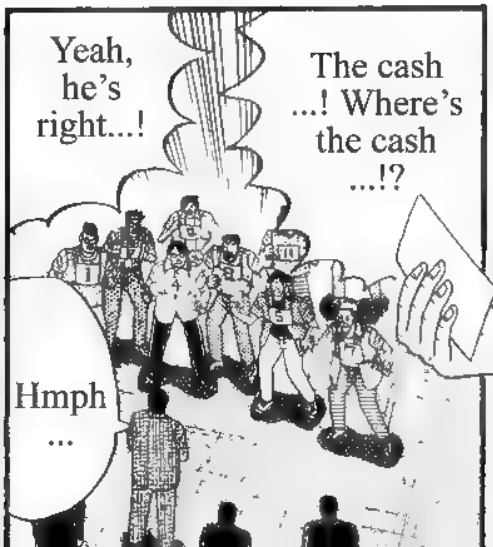
ざわ…
ざわ…
You …

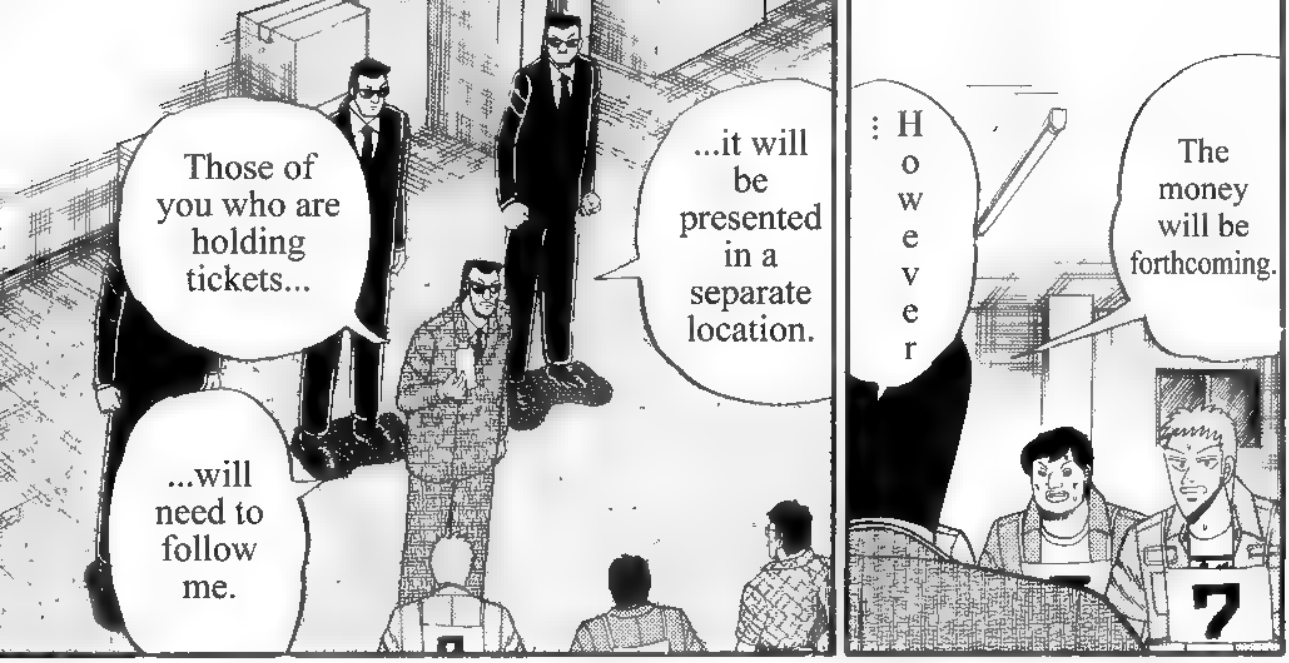
ざわ…

Cough it up …!
This is just a scrap of paper...!

You can't be serious …!
You gotta be kidding …!?

Relax …


Yeah, he's right...!
The cash …! Where's the cash …!?
Hmph …


Those of you who are holding tickets...
...will need to follow me.
...it will be presented in a separate location.
The money will be forthcoming.
However
7

Outside ...?
Outside ...!

...there is an additional 10 mil. yen ticket remaining.
...as only one player was able to complete the 5th race...
Additionally ...
Those of you interested ...
...you will have a chance of earning that ticket.
...including those disqualified, if you would also follow me...
Those of you scoring third place or less...

ざわ…
10
12
8
...please come this way!
11

With 10 mil. on the line...
……
ざわ…ざわ…

...followed him outside.
In the end, all of the players ...
...those in third or less barely had a choice.
CLAP CLAP CLAP
6
7
10

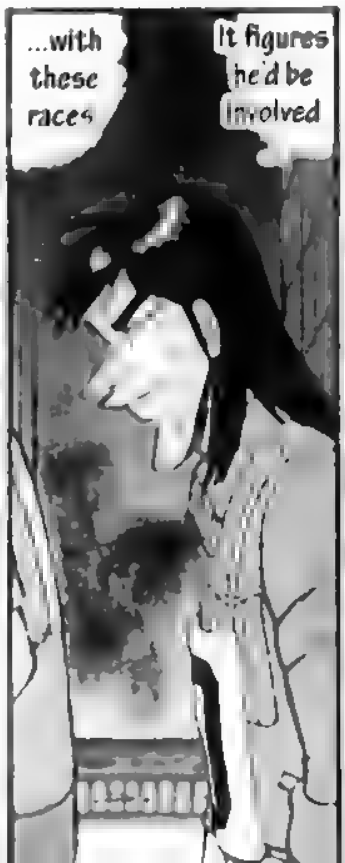
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

Congratulations
Congratulations
Congratulations
A warm welcome to the glorious victors.
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

Ahh ...!
Outside :
...an old face was waiting ...
The Hall Master of the Espoir...

Yukio Tonegawa...!

Could the same management be behind this race and the boat ?
10
Gentlemen !

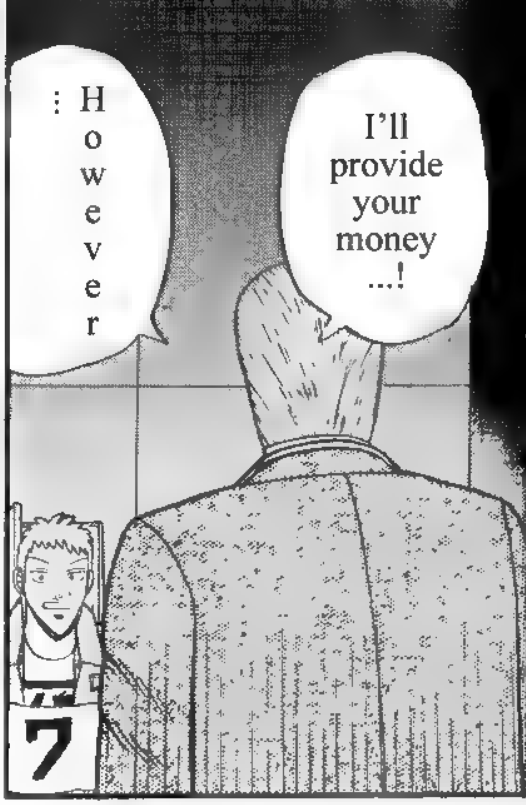

...with these races
It figures he'd be involved

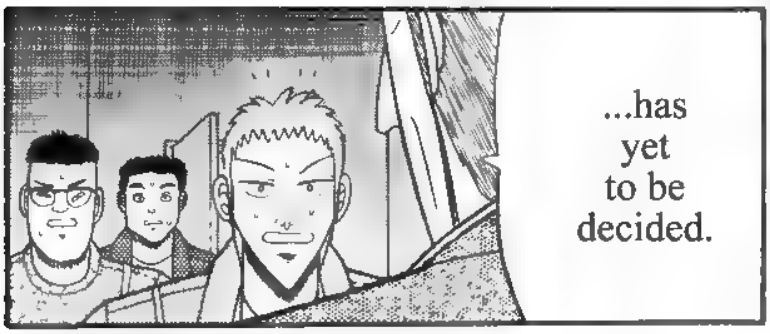
Hmph ...

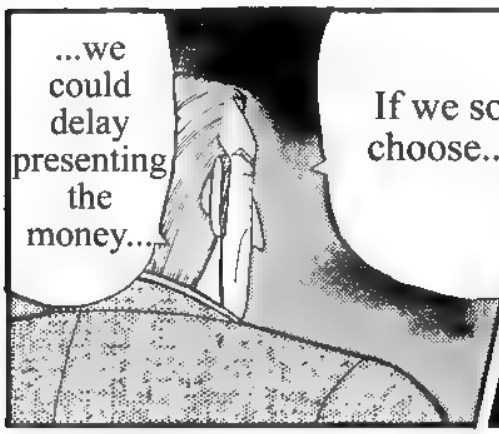
Ngh ...!

The proud and the elite...!
Ngh ...!
You are the winners ...!
...and earned a glorious distinction.
You've fought bravely ...
Quit stalling ...
That's not what we're here for...!
Save it...!
Truly remarkable ...
Hehehe
Fork it over...!
That's right ... yeah ...!
...and fork it over! The cash ...!
...in matters monetary and otherwise.
...is a man of his words ...
Yukio Tonegawa
Don't worry ...

...if you recall, the time and place...
...for that presentation...

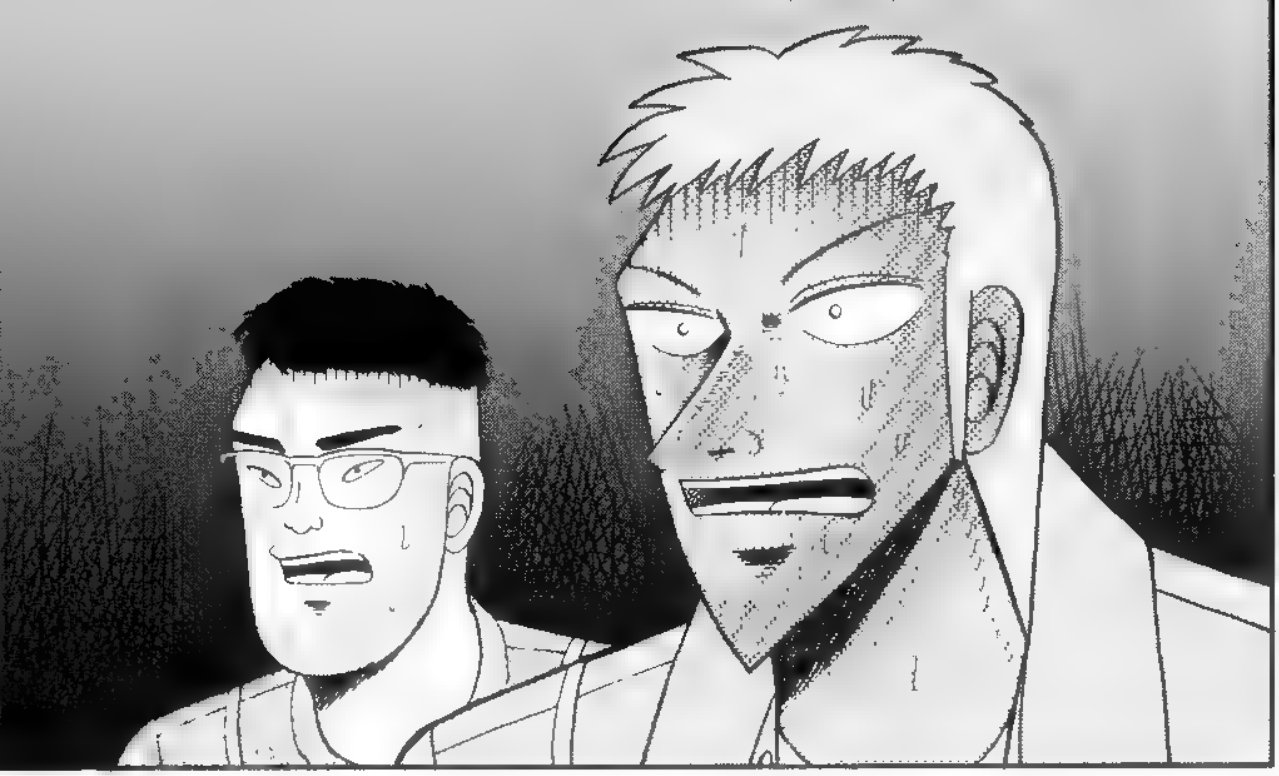

I'll provide your money ...!
However...


...has yet to be decided.


...we could delay presenting the money...
If we so choose...

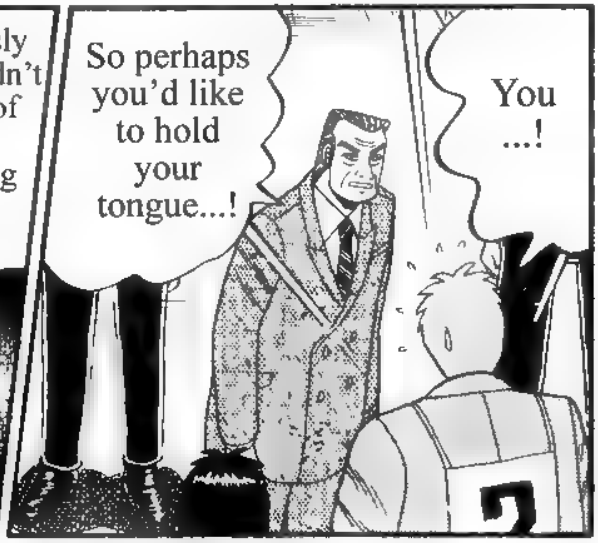
You see ...
Huh ...?

The decision is up to us...!
...for 10 or even 20 years.



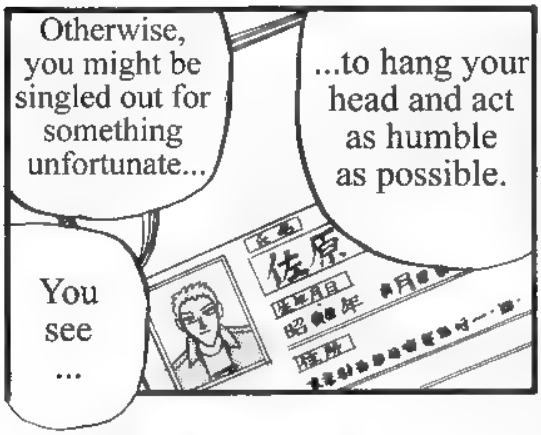
Remember one thing...
However...

Obviously we wouldn't dream of doing anything...
...so reproachable.

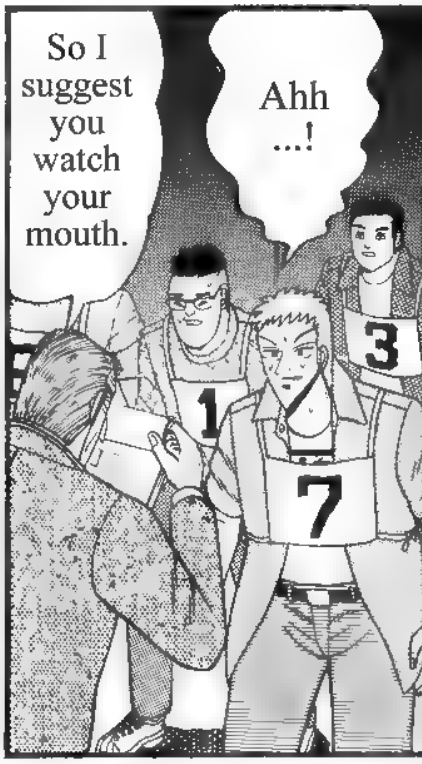

So perhaps you'd like to hold your tongue...!
You...!

...is still...
...to tender that prize...
The liberty to decide when and where...

...our prerogative!


Otherwise, you might be singled out for something unfortunate...
...to hang your head and act as humble as possible.
You see ...
佐原

If you're going to get too big for your britches you'd do better to save it until the end...
It would be in your best interests, along the way...

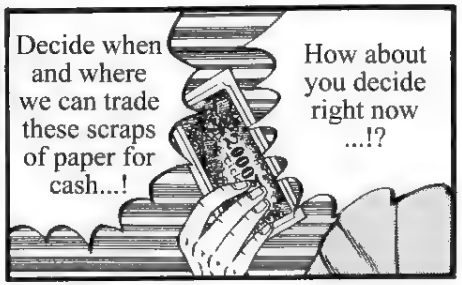

So I suggest you watch your mouth.
Ahh ...!
1
3
7

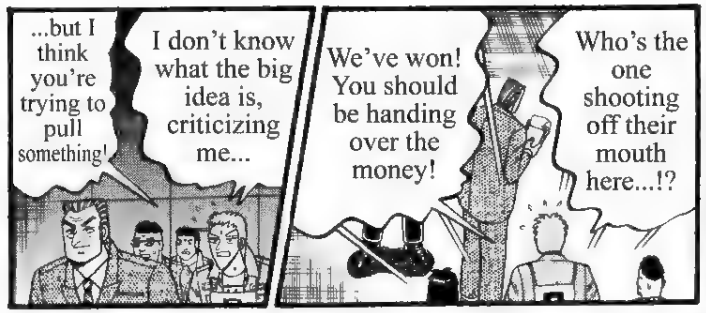
Understand...
...the basic rules of life are the same throughout the world.

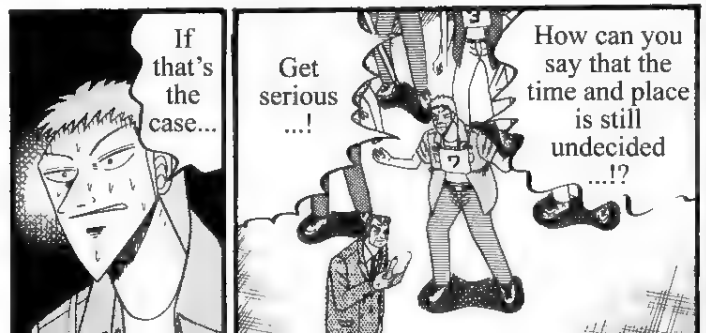
Ngh ...!

... Sahara -kun!?
End of Chapter 69

Chapter 70: Digging the Spurs




...but I think you're trying to pull something!
I don't know what the big idea is, criticizing me...
We've won! You should be handing over the money!
Who's the one shooting off their mouth here...!?



ざわ…

The truth is we've already decided.
Huh ...?

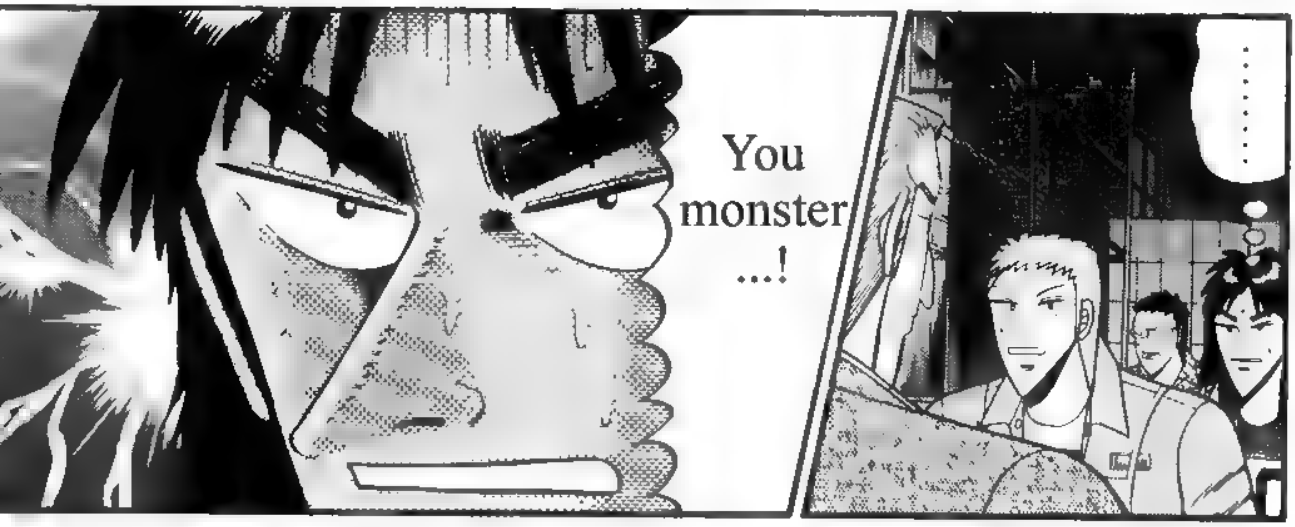
Come with me...

ざわ…
ざわ…
Hmph

First of all...
If you look at the ticket's reverse you can see that limit for yourself.
...there is a time limit for cashing your tickets.
A limit ...?
.....
.....
That's only two hours away...!
But that ...
Hmph
Valid until July 14th, 1:30 AM...
Huh ...?
有効期限
7月14日
午前1時

Hmph ...
Huh ...?
...can be cashed in immediately.
What is this ...!?
What's the meaning of this...!?
Your tickets, you see ...
As for the place, it is in the main building of the Starside Hotel...
As you stated, there is a little less than two hours left...
...so the elevator is not operational and the stairwell doors...
As you aware, the hotel was never opened...
... room 2214.
...on the 22nd floor...
.....
Which is why ...
...as you have neither equipment nor experience that method would seem impossible.
The only other possible means of reaching that room is to scale the walls.
...are firmly bolted shut.
However

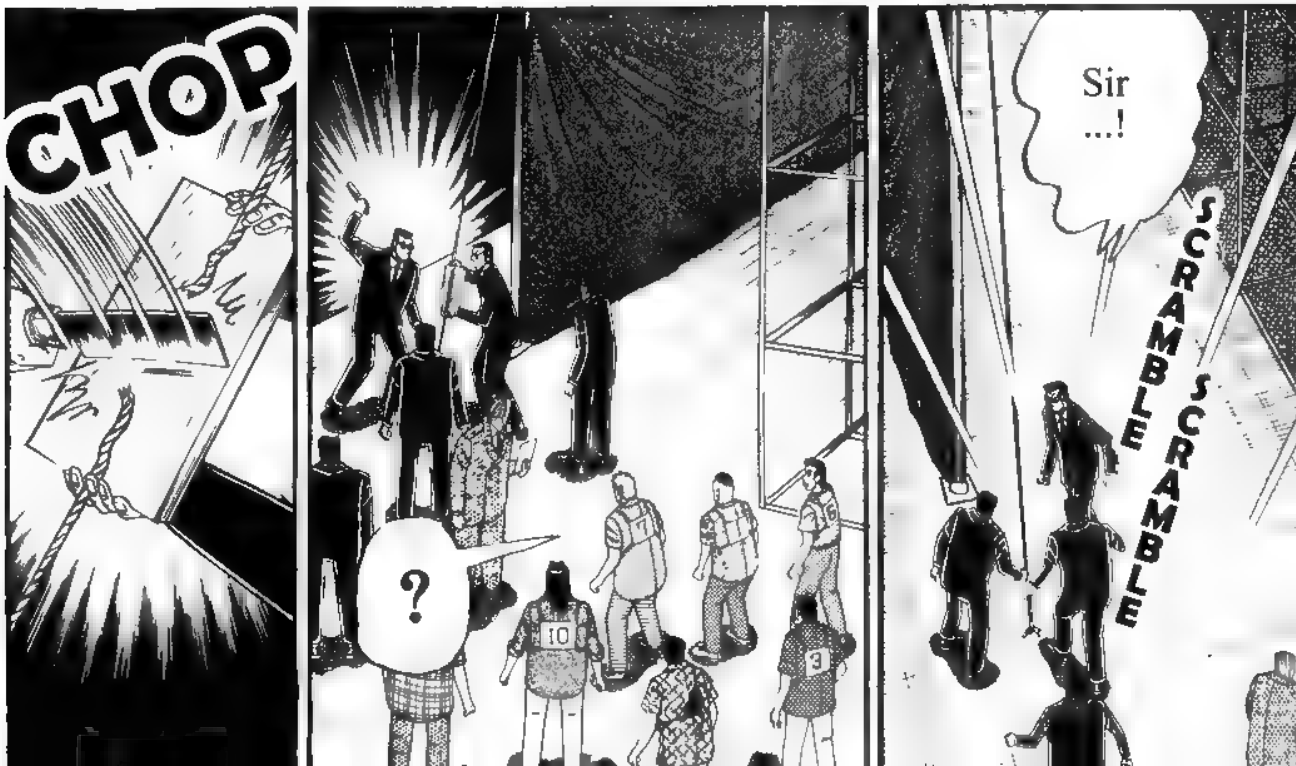
Can't you figure it out ...?
: Hehehe
Huh ...?
...we have built a path.
...for your convenience ...


You monster ...!
.....

: Hehehe
Huh ...?

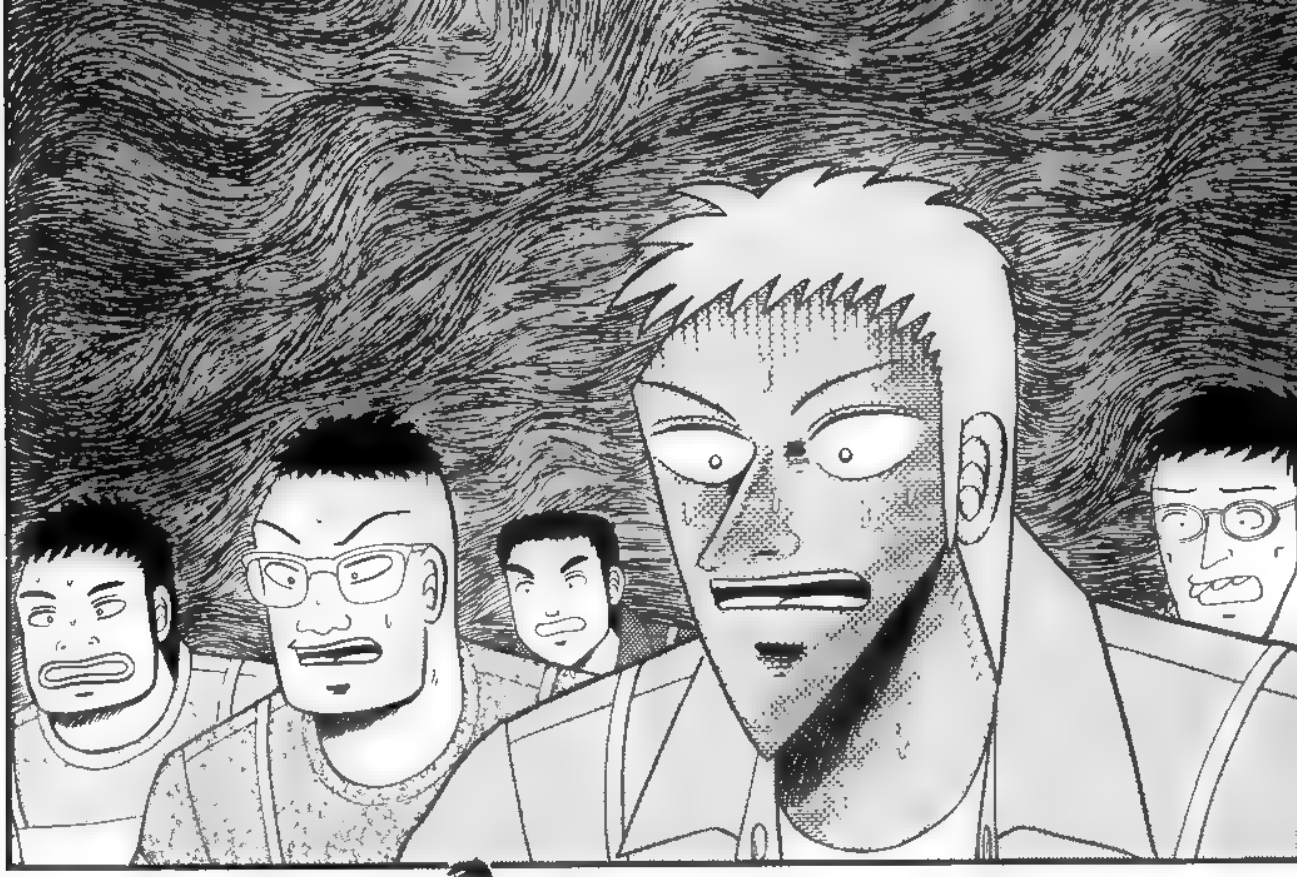
ざわ…
ざわ…
ざわ…
Heehehehe
...

Go ahead ...!
We're surrounded by idiots, it seems...
...only one of you has managed to guess ...
After all the hints I've given you...


CHOP
?
Sir ...!
SCRAMBLE
SCRAMBLE

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
FWOOSSH
Wha ...!?
It's exactly what it looks like ...
In order to exchange your tickets for money you will have to cross over...
...to the other side!

Ngh
...!



Impossible...!

Im...

This is...

This is crazy ...!

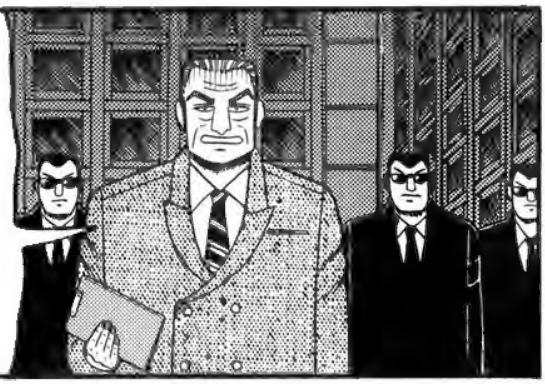
W-We're supposed to be done ...!

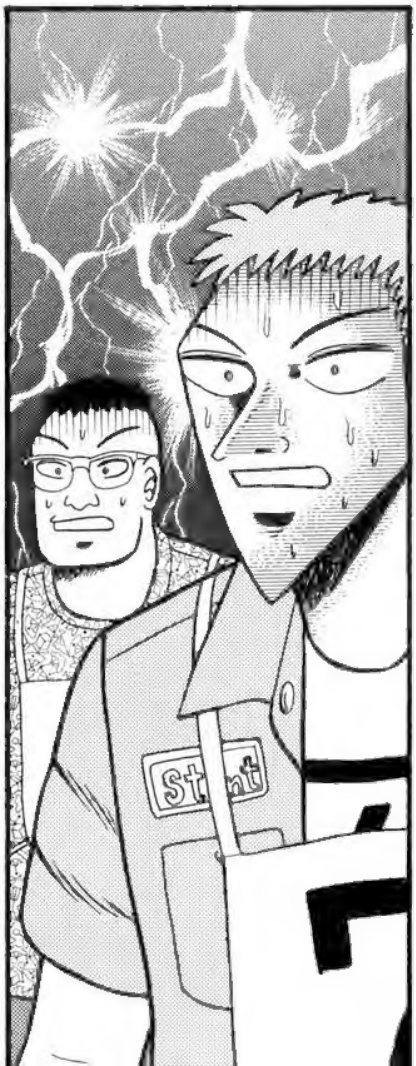
We're supposed to be done already...! What are you trying to pull...!?
Hehehe
Unfortunately
...you're not through just yet.
Before there was a mat...
Even if you fell it's unlikely you would have died...
Where's the fun in that ...!?
Do you really think something like that is worth 20 mil. yen...!?
Not a chance ...!
That was just child's play...
Just a bit ...
...of fun and games to entertain our guests.

Ngh ...!
A silly little sideshow ...!
It was a diversion ...
...is just chump change!?
That 10, 20 million yen...
You think this is monopoly money ...!?
You no-good ...!
Money ...
Money, you see...
...you brat!
You got another thing coming ...

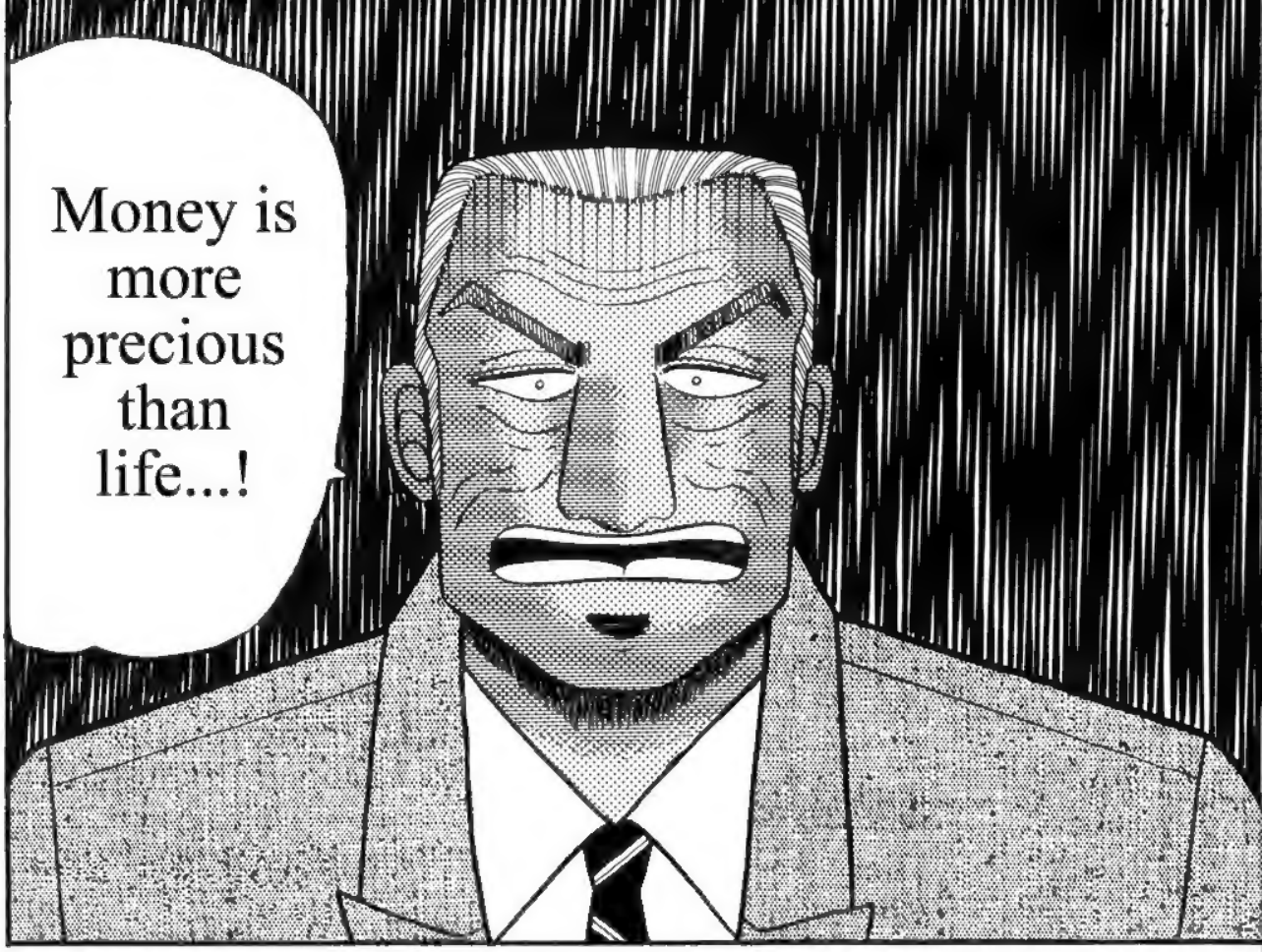
...is more precious than life...!

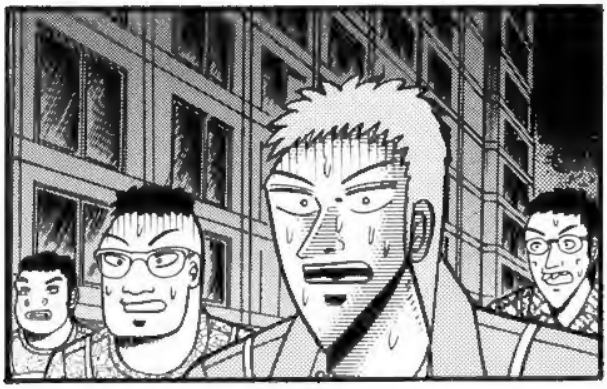
If the adults in society aren't interested in telling the truth...





...I will say it for them!


Money is more precious than life...!



Those who refuse to grasp that truth...
...are doomed to crawl in the dirt!

Ngh ...!
End of Chapter 70

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